

Jordan Times

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Reagan may have to testify

WASHINGTON (R) — The judge in the Iran-contra case ruled Monday that former President Ronald Reagan, but not President Bush, may have to testify at the trial of former White House aide Oliver North. The judge threw out the defence subpoena issued to Bush but said Reagan should remain subject to call as a witness at the first of the Iran-contra trials. Government lawyers challenged both subpoenas as unprecedented. North, a former White House national security aide under Reagan, issued subpoenas for the testimony of Reagan and Bush at his trial set to start Tuesday as part of a defence aimed at showing that his actions were approved by his superiors. Federal Judge Gerhard Gesell said in a three-page ruling that North failed to show that Bush has "any specific information relevant and material to the charges of the indictment which makes it necessary or appropriate to require his appearance." The judge refused to overturn the subpoena issued to Reagan. But he said that before the former president was called to appear in court, Gesell may enter a further order after hearing from the various lawyers in the case, including Reagan's own attorneys.

King congratulates Andreas Perez

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday sent a cable to Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez congratulating him on the assumption of his duties as president. King Hussein praised the "constructive and important role Venezuela plays in the Caribbean region, its contribution to strengthening the efforts of the Non-Aligned Movement" and voiced hope that cooperation between Jordan and Venezuela and between Jordan and the Organisation of American States be enhanced through the Arab League. King Hussein also wished the Venezuelan president every success in his duties and the Venezuelan people further progress and prosperity.

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Fasten your seatbelts please

AMMAN (J.T.) — The use of seatbelts by drivers and front seat passengers will become necessary by law as of Wednesday Feb. 1, 1989, according to an announcement by the Public Security Department (PSD) Monday.

The announcement said that the law would be enforced on all vehicles travelling inside or outside cities and urban areas and violators would be fined JD 5 to JD 15.

The use of seatbelts in cars has been proven to reduce and minimise injuries in as much as 70 per cent in all road accidents, the announcement noted. It said the enforcement of the law followed a two-month awareness campaign launched by the PSD through the information media.

The Jordan Society for the Prevention of Road Accidents took part in the campaign. According to the director of the Traffic Department, the total number of road accidents in Jordan from 1970 until the end of 1987 stood at 177,128 and caused the death of 6,598 people and injury of 103,780.

Health Minister Zuhair Mahas, who served as president of the Jordan Society for the Prevention of Road Accidents, said seatbelts could save the life of a lot of people and save efforts and cost of dealing with injuries and damages.

Mahas denied that seatbelts could have any adverse effects on pregnant women and said that the device had been proven to give 100 per cent protection for children.



Crown Prince returns home

Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath returned home Monday at the end of a visit to Switzerland and Britain. They were received upon arrival by Royal Court Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, His

Majesty King Hussein's political advisor Adnan Abu Odeh, King Hussein's special advisor Amer Khammash, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ed Ibn Zaid and senior civil and military officials.

15 Palestinians shot and wounded; Rabin changes tune

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops Monday shot and wounded 15 Palestinians, including a 16-year-old girl and a 15-year-old boy in critical condition with bullet wounds to the head and abdomen, doctors said.

The wounded also included a 12-year-old boy taken to a hospital with a serious gunshot wound to the head, doctors said.

An Arab mukhtar was found stabbed to death in the West Bank village of Beit Lid, an army spokeswoman said Monday.

The circumstances of the village leader's murder Sunday were unclear, but reporters said 65-year-old Mahmoud Salem Mahmoud may have been killed because he was suspected of working for the Israeli occupation authorities.

Meanwhile, Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Monday he was willing to work towards elections in the occupied territories even if Palestinians don't agree to immediately halt the 13-month-old uprising.

Speaking on army radio, Rabin said he was willing to drop his earlier condition that Palestinians halt the uprising for several months before Israel would talk about holding the first elections in the occupied territories since 1976.

Palestinians have rejected attaching any pre-conditions to elections.

Rabin told legislators of his Labour Party that he was willing to hold talks immediately with Palestinians in order to bring about elections. Only after agreement was reached would the up-

rising have to end so balloting could be held without violence, Rabin said.

"I am willing to talk now, to reach agreement on the process," Rabin said on army radio. "When there's agreement on the process, then a calm period will have to begin, because to my mind if you want free elections they cannot take place in an atmosphere of violence."

Rabin also said Palestinians from the occupied territories were more willing than ever to talk to Israel but the Zionist state had to adopt a unified position regarding with whom it was willing to negotiate.

Israeli peace activists have called for talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)

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Arab committee launches Lebanon mediation effort

TUNIS (Agencies) — Arab foreign ministers had informal contacts with Lebanon's rival prime ministers Monday at the start of a mediation attempt which civilian Premier Salim Hoss said was a real chance to end the country's constitutional crisis.

The Arab League has given the six ministers — from Kuwait, Sudan, Algeria, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates and Jordan — the task of trying to help the two governments find a way out of the four-month-old deadlock.

Lebanon has had no president and two prime ministers, Hoss and army commander Michel Aoun, since the Lebanese parliament failed to agree last September on a successor to outgoing president Amin Gemayel.

Hoss, Aoun and Parliament Speaker Hussein Al Hussein

have come to Tunis to put their views on the crisis to the Arab League committee.

Both the Hoss and Aoun delegations said they were looking for a presidential candidate who had a practical reform programme, but there was no indication they had started serious talks on any specific names.

Under the Lebanese system, the president must be a Maronite Christian.

Hoss told reporters Monday: "There are no last chances, but this is a real and serious oppor-

tunity which we must take advantage of. It's the first time for ages that Lebanon has hit the headlines for political rather than security reasons."

The committee met at Arab League headquarters in Tunis late Sunday to decide how to set about its task.

Arab League Secretary General Chadli Klibi also took part.

"Arab and international conditions have become more favourable to help Lebanon out of its crisis and to tackle the problem in a responsible and objective spirit," Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem said before leaving Amman.

"We hope our brothers in Lebanon will cooperate for the benefit of Lebanon and the Arab Nation."

On the sidelines of the meet-

ing, Qasem Monday met with his Kuwaiti counterpart Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

The Aoun delegation was shaken by news from Beirut that a car bomb exploded close to a convoy carrying Georges Saad, leader of the Falangist Party, a right-wing group (see page 2).

Aides to the army commander linked the east Beirut blast with the Tunis meetings, saying it might have been designed to mar the atmosphere and reduce the chances of a settlement.

The Arab ministers started their formal contacts with separate afternoon meetings, with each of the three Lebanese leaders, an Arab League spokesman said.

Hoss told reporters conditions in the world and in the region were propitious for a settlement.

U.N. envoy ends Gulf mission with agreement for talks

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — U.N. special envoy Jan Eliasson left for New York Monday after persuading Iran and Iraq to hold face-to-face talks to curb violations of the Gulf war ceasefire.

Eliasson, who visited both Tehran and Baghdad during his seven-day mission, said before his departure that his talks with Iraqi leaders were "comprehensive and fruitful."

He also lauded President Saddam Hussein's decision to lift a ban on civilian flights into Iran through Iraqi airspace.

The U.N. official told the AP after a four-hour meeting with Hussein Sunday that he could not specify a date for the talks between military leaders from Iran and Iraq.

Eliasson said U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar had to confirm the most appropriate forum for the talks.

Eliasson called the promise for talks and Iraq's pledge to lift the

ban on civilian aircraft "the two most concrete measures that could improve the atmosphere."

He also said: "The secretary-general and I are hopeful of being able to meet with the foreign ministers of Iran and Iraq in New York in the near future."

"There have been no preconditions set," said Eliasson, who was expected back in New York by Tuesday.

Diplomats in the Iraqi capital, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the Iraqi agreement to set up a joint military committee with Iran was a significant breakthrough in U.N. efforts to revive stalled peace talks aimed at ending the eight-year-old Gulf war.

Eliasson said he would not detail what possible solutions either side had presented to untie the outstanding negotiating knots.

The obstacles include a withdrawal of troops to pre-war borders and clearing the Shatt Al

Arab waterway, Iraq's only outlet to the Gulf, that is blocked by more than 70 ships.

"It is important that we now make progress on major issues in the peace process and I hope we'll soon have the opportunity under the auspices of the secretary-general," Eliasson said.

No serious clashes have been reported since the Aug. 20 ceasefire took effect but the United Nations has expressed concern at the proximity of Iranian and Iraqi forces along the frontline.

Eliasson arrived in Baghdad Friday after talks with Iranian leaders. He briefed the president on those talks and offered "some ideas and suggestions to let the peace process continue and implement U.N. Resolution 598," the Iraqi News Agency (INA) said.

Hussein said Iraq was ready to resume peace talks provided Iran set no preconditions.

Studies reveal lingering pesticide threats to food

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times staff reporter

AMMAN — A three-year study by the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) has indicated that levels of pesticides detected in fruits and vegetables in Jordan were higher than the internationally allowed limits.

The findings have prompted the concerned authorities, including the Ministry of Agriculture, to establish laboratories to control the level of pesticides used in cultivated lands in the Kingdom. However, according to Dr. Saïd Alloush, head of the organic technology division at the RSS, some serious gaps remain in the effort to achieve food safety for customers.

"Some users of pesticides are not complying with the specifications," he said in a recent interview with the Jordan Times. "They are spraying pesticides in higher levels than they should and are not giving the pesticide enough time to decompose in the environment."

Dr. Alloush, who, in cooperation with Asma Kattan, compiled

a study on food safety: monitoring for environmental contaminants, in which he stressed the importance of establishing programmes to monitor food contaminants to enable concerned people to foresee events and possibilities and act accordingly before harm is done.

According to the study released in December 1988, the major classes of food contaminants are discussed in terms of their occurrence, toxicity, levels of intake and presence in food items. These contaminants include heavy metals, mycotoxins (such as aflatoxins), pesticide residues, nitrates, nitrites and nitrosamines, industrial chemicals and residues resulting from use of food additives and veterinary drugs, substances migrating to food from packing material and other contaminants.

In Jordan, Dr. Alloush said, a report on the level of food contamination had been presented to the concerned authorities. The Ministry of Agriculture has established a laboratory in Baqaa to control pesticide residues. The RSS, on its part, monitors foods

imported into the country.

But, this, in no way, means that the required level of food safety has been attained. Dr. Alloush said the laboratory in Baqaa was not capable of monitoring and controlling all farmlands in the country and that the RSS labs could not cover all imported foodstuffs.

The RSS covers a wide range of imported foods and its reports on tested foodstuffs are needed by importers before they can get their goods into the country. Foods that do not comply are automatically destroyed or re-exported, according to Dr. Alloush.

The Ministry of Industry and Trade and the department of measurements and specifications have their own laboratories, which are mainly concerned with other aspects of imported or locally-produced foods. They occasionally send samples to the RSS to ascertain compliance with other specifications.

"There is a gap that we are hoping to be able to close," the head of the organic technology division at the

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LAST-MINUTE NEWS

Portugal to upgrade PLO office

LISBON (AP) — A leading official of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) said Monday Portugal had agreed to upgrade the PLO's office in Lisbon, the Portuguese news agency, LUSA reported. Farouk Kadoumi made his announcement after talks with Portuguese Foreign Minister Joao de Deus Pinheiro, but he declined to give further details of change in status of the PLO office, the LUSA report added.

OAU chief upbeat over Sahara

ALGIERS (R) — President Moussa Traore of Mali said Monday a unilateral truce proclaimed by Polisario guerrillas in the Western Sahara was an important step towards a durable peace. The chairman of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) also told Algerian state radio that outlines for lasting peace were being sketched after talks between Polisario and King Hassan of Morocco (see page 2). Traore discussed the situation with Algerian President Chadli Benjedid during a three-day visit which ended Monday.

Greek Cypriots submit proposals

NICOSIA (AP) — Talks aimed at reunifying Cyprus reached a crucial stage Monday as the Greek Cypriot leader presented detailed proposals in writing to the Turkish Cypriot side. President George Vassiliou handed the proposals to Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash during their weekly meeting at the home of United Nations special representative Oscar Camilleri in the U.N.-patrolled buffer zone that separates the two communities. "Discussion on the substance starts now... if there is the necessary goodwill, then we shall definitely make progress," Vassiliou said after the meeting.

Mulroney announces major cabinet overhaul

OTTAWA (R) — Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney announced a major reshuffling of his cabinet Monday, including new ministers for energy, defence and the treasury board. Mulroney, who led his Conservative Party to its second consecutive majority government in November, also announced creation of four new cabinet committees, covering the environment, economic affairs, culture and human resources. As was expected, Finance Minister Michael Wilson, External Affairs Minister Joe Clark, Deputy Prime Minister Don Mazankowski and Trade Minister John Crosbie remained in their posts.

Gorbachev to visit Britain in April

LONDON (R) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev will visit Britain from April 5 to 7, rescheduling a visit planned for December and postponed because of the Armenian earthquake. A British government announcement said he would be accompanied by his wife, Raisa.

China confirms accord with Hanoi

PEKING (AP) — Australia's foreign minister said Monday that Chinese officials told him China and Vietnam had reached an agreement aimed at ending their roles in the Kampuchean civil war. Under the accord, Vietnam will withdraw its troops from Kampuchea by September in exchange for China's agreement to end military aid to Kampuchean rebels, said Foreign Minister Gareth Evans. In a briefing with Australian reporters, Evans said Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen confirmed that Peking and Hanoi had a solid agreement on Vietnam's troop withdrawal. There was no immediate comment from the Chinese government. Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister Dinh Nho Liem slipped into Peking Jan. 14 for the first direct talks between the two countries in nine years. The Chinese side refused to divulge details of the "private consultations," but Vietnamese sources said the two sides had agreed that both China and Vietnam would support the Kampuchean rebels and Vietnam's military presence would end by September.

Amal, Hizbollah sign peace pact

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Lebanon's feuding Amal and Hizbollah militias Monday signed an agreement to end a nine-month-old war that killed more than 500 people.

The Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) said that Amal and the Hizbollah signed the eight-point "comprehensive agreement" at the Syrian Foreign Ministry.

The accord was finalised at a meeting between leaders of the rival militias. Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa and Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati after a week of tortuous negotiations marked by clashes in Lebanon.

Asked whether the agreement will open the door to freeing Western hostages in Lebanon, Velayati said before Monday's meeting: "We hope that all hostages, whatever their nationalities, will be released very soon on the basis of humanitarian aspects."

He did not elaborate. Most of the 15 Westerners missing in Lebanon are believed held by Iranian-backed Shiite factions linked to Hizbollah.

However, Hizbollah leader Sheikh Ibrahim Al Amin indicated late Sunday after officials announced a peace agreement had been reached that the hostages were not linked to the accord.

"This matter has no relation to us, nor with the agreement," SANA said the agreement provided for an immediate ceasefire, exchange of prisoners, ending hostile propaganda, forming a joint operations centre in South Lebanon against Israel and a coordination committee to regulate relations between the two factions.

In what appeared to be a significant setback for Hizbollah, SANA said the pact also gives Amal control of security in South Lebanon and emphasised that Syria is the sole security power in western sectors of Beirut.

The agency said the agreement also stipulated that both sides agree not to harm U.N. peacekeeping forces "or the personnel of international organisations" in Lebanon.

The last obstacle to an agreement was the handing over by Hizbollah of men accused by Amal of responsibility for the killing of three of its military commanders in Beirut last September.

Brigadier Ghazi Kanaan, Syria's security chief in Lebanon, said those responsible had been delivered to his forces.

He said a man accused of killing a prominent Hizbollah leader was also handed over to the Syrians.

Ripples and jolts over quake-resistant building code

By Najwa Najjar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Shake, rattle and roll... not the song, but the sobering reality of an earthquake that has been disregarded by many in Jordan, who would like to believe the Kingdom is earthquake-free.

Jordanian experts disagree. They say an earthquake in the region is inevitable by the year 2009 and Jordan should begin implementing measures to ensure the survival of human life.

Concerned parties have made strides on issues concerning earthquake resistance construction, but questions remain

on the country's present construction codes and whether buildings will withstand a quake of a magnitude of more than five on the Richter scale.

"Regions that have had earthquakes in the past... may expect them in the future," said the head of the Royal Scientific Society's (RSS) structures and earthquake unit, Dr. Faisal Suyagh, stressing that the expected earthquake need not necessarily be as destructive as past ones.

Jordan has had a long recorded history of earthquakes, dating back to B.C. 2150. Until 1837, 26 earthquakes were recorded with an average recurrence period of 153 years. One

of the most powerful quakes during this period was in 700 A.D. when the city of Jerash was destroyed.

In recent history (1903-1984), 1,006 earthquakes were registered in southern Jordan and the Dead Sea resulting from movement along the 1,100-kilometre Gulf of Aqaba-Jordan-Dead Sea rift, between the Arabian and African plates, according to University of Jordan associate professor of seismology Dr. Zuhair Al Issa.

Issa cited a 1927 earthquake in Nabulus measuring 6.1 on the Richter scale, killing 400 people and destroying 10 to 15 per cent of the homes in the city as

an example of another destructive earthquake.

Although some quakes have registered 7.3 on the Richter scale, Issa contends that a 4 to 4.5 magnitude range has been dominant in the region. Suyagh adds: "Earthquakes of less intensity occur on a daily basis. Just one month ago, two earthquakes, three days apart, were recorded in Aqaba at 4.07 and 3.8 respectively."

According to Suyagh, the recurrence period for earthquakes measuring 6 to 7 on the Richter scale is 82 years while more intense earthquakes have a recurrence period of 400 years.

Based on this analysis, Suyagh says, "If we refer to the Nabulus quake of 1927, Jordan can expect its next earthquake in 2009, measuring between 6 and 7 on the Richter scale and concentrated in the Jordan Valley."

On how extensive the damage may be, Jordanian construction experts agree that the traditional building methods in the region and the predominance of low rise buildings may provide some resilience to an earthquake with a magnitude of 6 or 7.

The box-shaped building, which has been generally accepted as safer than a U or

L-shaped building where different wings may vibrate at different times, has been traditionally used in Jordan. Reinforced steel doctile frames are recommended in earthquake-prone areas, but, more importantly, experts agree that every component of the building should be interwoven so that nothing comes free when jolted by a quake.

According to the director of the RSS building research centre, Dr. Daoud Jabaji, "our construction has a generally good resistance to earthquakes." He said the strength of the buildings depends on

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Falange Party leader escapes unscathed

Carbomb kills 3 in E. Beirut

BEIRUT (Agencies) — A car bomb exploded Monday in an east Beirut neighbourhood as right-wing Falange Party chief George Saade drove by in a motorcade. Police said three people were killed and 17 wounded.

They said Saade, 57, who was riding in a dark blue bullet-proof Alfa Romeo escorted by three carloads of bodyguards, escaped unscathed. Among those killed were two of the bodyguards.

No group claimed responsibility for the attack. The motorcade was driving through a wide boulevard near a cemetery in the Furn Al Shubbah residential district when a red Renault packed with 50 kilograms of TNT blew up at 10:30 a.m. (0830 GMT), police said.

"We haven't yet been able to determine whether it was detonated by remote control or a timing device," said a police spokesman.

"Had the blast occurred in a narrow street, the casualties and material losses would have been much greater," he added.

Saade told the rightist Voice of Lebanon radio shortly after the attack: "I don't think I was targeted because no one knew that I was going to take this road. It was just pure fate."

"Criminals are once again tampering with the security of the Lebanese at a time when everybody is trying to restore peace," said Colonel Issam Abu Jamra, deputy prime minister in Lebanon's military government.

Militia sources said Abu Jamra had also driven past the site of the explosion shortly before the car bomb went off.

Major-General Michel Aoun, head of the military government, was in Tunis Monday for talks aimed at ending the power struggle between his administration and one led by civilian Salim Al Hoss.

Militiamen of the hardline rightist Lebanese Forces militia, which shares control of Lebanon's Christian enclave with the army, rushed to the scene and helped rescue the wounded and clear the area.

As ambulances raced back and forth at the scene, a woman dressed in black ran over glass shards littering the street screaming hysterically.

"Where is he, where is my cousin," she shouted as tears welled down her face. "I lost my only son in a damned car bomb last year and now my cousin."

Rescuers then told her that her cousin, one of Saade's bodyguards, has suffered only minor injuries. The bodyguards refused to say who she was, but one said she was still wearing black in mourning for her lost son.

In 13 years of civil war, Lebanon's factions have frequently used car bombs for political assassinations.

Five people were wounded Saturday when a car bomb blew up in east Lebanon.

Cairo officials say Israel dragging feet over Tab

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian Foreign Ministry officials accused Israel Monday of deliberately obstructing progress in talks on an Israeli withdrawal from the Red Sea beachfront of Tab.

"They are trying to blow up the situation, trying to create a justification not to move," said a senior official, who declined to be identified.

Several officials, upset by what they viewed as inaccurate Israeli leaks on sensitive negotiations, said Egypt expected concrete new proposals from Israel or the United States to break the deadlock.

International arbitrators in a binding decision Sept. 29 ruled that the 700-metre Tab beach, retained by Israel when it returned the rest of Sinai in 1982, belonged on Egypt's side of the border.

A deadline for the negotiations on Tab slipped by Sunday with no solution. Egypt has asked the arbitrators in Geneva to remain in session until the verdict is implemented.

Israel has demanded that ownership of a luxury hotel in Tab and rules for Israel access to the beach be decided before it pulls out.

Chief Egyptian negotiator Nabil Al Arabi Monday told Patrick

Norton, an aide to U.S. mediator Abraham Sofaer, of Egypt's demand for a rigid timetable on Israeli withdrawal separate from other issues.

Egyptian officials said privately that Israeli negotiators, in the last round of face-to-face talks Friday, agreed to certain steps but changed their minds at the last moment.

"There were several understandings until the last day, when the Israelis said they wouldn't abide by any of them," an official said. "If we stop talking, what legitimate basis does Israel have to stay in our territory?"

The officials said one item in a package proposed by Egypt was to replace the Israeli flag at Tab with the Egyptian flag.

Israel Radio reported that Egypt had refused to raise its flag near the new border marker, but officials in Cairo said they were suspicious about exactly what was being proposed.

"They will raise our flag and put their flag next to it," said one official. "It's not acceptable. It doesn't mean anything."

Egyptian officials said Israel had so far refused to discuss setting the border line that runs from the last border marker — number 91 — to the sea.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Friends remember American hostages

BEIRUT (R) — Friends of 10 Americans held hostage in Lebanon for up to three years sent messages of love and hope for their release in letters published Monday. "We want you to know that you are always remembered in our prayers. We are still hoping that soon you will be among us," said a U.S. congressman in a letter in Beirut's independent Al Nahar daily. The newspaper said the message from the congressman, whom it named as Don Baer, was one of scores addressed to the 10 Americans missing in Lebanon. A total of 17 Westerners are missing, believed kidnapped in Lebanon. "We want you to know that you are not forgotten. We hope that 1989 will witness your return to your country," said another letter. The author and hostage concerned were not identified.

Wolves savage Iranian villagers

NICOSIA (AP) — Hungry wolves driven by Iran's severe winter to search for food in populated areas, have mauled 13 people on the outskirts of the western city of Bakhtaran in the last two nights, the official Islamic Republic News Agency reported Sunday. The agency said police officers and officials of the environmental protection organisation have been deployed to prevent further attacks. Freezing temperatures and snowfalls have forced wild animals and birds to flock to other towns in many regions over the past two weeks, IRNA said. Earlier this week, state-run Tehran Television showed hungry jackals and foxes scavenging for scraps in streets on the outskirts of the capital.

Dubai international air show opens

DUBAI (AP) — Defence Minister Sheikh Mohammad Ibn Rashid Sunday opened the Dubai international aerospace exhibition, the major civil and military aviation show in the Middle East. It has attracted about 200 international companies displaying the latest in aviation technology, including aircraft and weapons and data systems. Among the combat aircraft on show were the U.S. General Dynamics F-16C Fighting Falcon, the British Harrier GR5 vertical takeoff fighter and Hawk 200 fighter, the French Mirage 2000 and Italy's Aermacchi MB-339C jet trainer. British Aerospace exhibited its four-engine BAE-146 side-loading tactical airlifter, a short take-off and landing jet transport, and Spain's CASA CN-235 twin-prop multi-purpose transport. The four-day show at Dubai's international airport was attended by high-ranking officials from Bahrain, Oman, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. A delegation from Egypt, the leading Arab military power which has its own advanced military industry base, also attended. Chinese weapons were also on display and an official delegation from Iran, led by the director of civil aviation, was also reported to have come from Tehran.

Khamenei urges efforts to promote Islam

NICOSIA (R) — Iranian President Ali Khamenei urged Muslims Sunday to do more to promote Islam in what he called the global propaganda war. "The world propaganda scene is like a scene of battle," Khamenei said at the opening of a Tehran conference on spreading the message of Islam. "It is necessary that the thinkers of the Islamic World think of something for this issue and focus their capabilities on ways to confront (Western) propaganda." The Iranian news agency IRNA quoted him as saying Western radio stations beamed 7,100 programme hours a week in many languages all over the world. Communist bloc nations broadcast a similar volume. "This is the kind of propaganda the world of Islam is facing," Khamenei said.

Iran expels Briton for illegal activities

NICOSIA (R) — Iran has expelled a British technician after trying him for unlawful activities, the Iranian news agency IRNA said Monday. The agency, monitored in Nicosia, quoted a statement by the information (internal security) ministry as saying Samuel Williams had been tried, declared *persona non grata* and barred from returning to Iran for 10 years. Williams had worked for years as a technical expert in the northeastern Khorasan province and was recently arrested, the agency said. It gave no details of the Briton's offence.

Hassan II, Polisario team to hold second meeting in February

LONDON (R) — Morocco's King Hassan and a delegation from the Polisario Front, which is fighting for independence in the Western Sahara, will hold a second meeting in February, Algeria Radio said.

The radio, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation, said Polisario Secretary-General Mohammed Abdul Aziz announced the meeting Sunday after talks in Algeria with visiting Organisation of African Unity (OAU) Chairman Moussa Traore.

The first direct talks between the two sides in the 13-year conflict, an unprecedented meeting with the king in Marrakesh, were held Jan. 4. Abdul Aziz said the next round would be in the second half of February.

The breakthrough in the conflict came last year when both sides accepted in principle a United Nations proposal for a referendum on the future of the territory.

Polisario has said no fair vote is possible so long as Moroccan soldiers and nationals inside Western Sahara outnumber the

indigenous people.

On Friday, Polisario announced a one-month truce for February in what they said was a goodwill gesture to encourage dialogue and the search for peace.

Bachir Mustapha Sayed, number two in the Polisario hierarchy, said in Spain Wednesday that a second meeting with King Hassan was expected at the end of January.

Moroccan officials remain tightlipped over a follow-up meeting to the first contacts Jan. 4. But analysts believe an outline agreement is in the making after weeks of intense diplomatic activity.

However, they say there is much ground still to cover and are doubtful an agreement could be in place in time for a summit of Maghreb leaders in Marrakesh. The meeting has tentatively been scheduled for Feb. 15 but the date has not been confirmed.

Government sources have hinted the next step in the peace process could be the announcement of a state visit to Morocco by Algerian President Chadli Benjedid before the Maghreb

summit. Benjedid, a pragmatic leader who wants good relations, restored diplomatic ties with Morocco last May and brokered the Polisario's first visit to Morocco.

Polisario's Abdul Aziz said in an interview with the French magazine le Point that an accord between the two sides on a U.N. referendum would guarantee the success of the summit of Maghreb leaders.

"The referendum is an essential component in any solution and it must be held. But the two parties in conflict must be in agreement first," he said.

Abdul Aziz said both sides recognised the need for an agreement before the vote but rejected a form of autonomy under Moroccan sovereignty.

He pledged that an independent Western Sahara would pose no problem for Morocco, either in economic or security terms. "We can guarantee that we will never allow foreigners to set up military bases nor will we sign military treaties with any third country," he said.

U.S. Muslims favour jihad and negotiations

NEW YORK (AP) — Both holy war and negotiation are necessary if Palestinians are to win a return to their homeland, according to U.S. Muslims meeting in New York.

But in a sometimes emotional and heated symposium Sunday night, there was little agreement on the degrees to which talks and action should be applied.

Nor was there consensus on the role of the United States, although most concurred that ultimately Israel will either occupy all of what once was Palestine or none of it.

"The two-state solution is no solution," said M.T. Mehdi, president of the National Council on Islamic Affairs, which organised the "Symposium on Islam."

Mehdi referred to steps by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to establish a Palestinian state to coexist with Israel. A major focus of the symposium was the almost 14-month-old Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"The value of the sacrifice of the young men in Palestine is that ultimately they change the opinion of the world," Mehdi said.

Mehdi, who has lived in the United States for 40 years, said it

was necessary for the approximately eight-million Muslims in the United States to develop the political strength to influence U.S. foreign policy towards supporting the Palestinian cause.

Dr. Khalid L. Rehman said "one of the ways the problem can be solved is through our children."

"If we can get these children to be good citizens... they will change public opinion. They will be lawyers and political leaders," the physician said.

Imam Fawaz Damra, spiritual leader of Al Farooq Mosque where the meeting was held, said he agreed with Mehdi that a two-state solution was no solution. But he said he believed Americans would continue supporting Israel.

"We have to use weapons to kick them (Israelis) out of Palestine," declared the imam, who said his family was forced from Palestine. "If we cannot get our land by our hands... then we will never get it."

"Do not think about America. Don't think about winning their votes or dealing with the Jews,"



M.T. Mehdi

said Mustafa Shalabi, another speaker. Sheikh Amin Awad appealed for unity. "We need jihad (holy war) and we need diplomacy," he said.

"Education is jihad," Mehdi said, adding that he would not presume to instruct Palestinian teenagers in the occupied territories how to throw stones at Israeli soldiers.

"It is easy to throw stones. It is harder to get on (U.S. television network) CBS and try to reach 200 million people," he said.



Thorvald Stoltenberg

Norway pledges to help peace efforts

TUNIS (R) — Norway had its first ministerial contact with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Sunday night and said it would do what it could to gain peace in the Middle East.

After three hours of talks over dinner with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, Norwegian Foreign Minister Thorvald Stoltenberg told a news conference they agreed it was important the Middle East peace process continue.

"To the extent that Norway can contribute to promoting this process, we definitely will do that," Stoltenberg added.

He gave no indication of practical steps Oslo was planning but Arafat said Norway and other Scandinavian countries should use their influence and prestige on all the parties concerned in the conflict.

Stoltenberg said Arafat would be welcome in Norway. "We agreed to come back to further details (about a possible visit)," he added.

Asked if Norway would upgrade the status of the PLO office in Oslo, he said there was no difference between an office and a diplomatic mission, implying the PLO would stay at its present level.

The meeting was the last of three between Arafat and Scandinavian delegations over the weekend.

On Saturday Arafat talked to Danish opposition leader Svend Auken and Sunday afternoon he met two Swedish parliamentarians from the Social Democratic Party — Evert Svensson and Karl-Enk Svartberg.

Other European countries have also been upgrading contacts with the PLO.

Kabul fearful as Soviet force dwindles

By Oliver Wates
Reuters

KABUL — As the Soviet force in Afghanistan steadily dwindles, the uncertainty gripping the crippled country seems to grow deeper and deeper.

When the Soviets are gone, by Feb. 15, will the government remain loyal to the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) and keep anti-communist rebels at bay in the mountains?

Will the armed forces remain loyal to the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) and keep anti-communist rebels at bay in the mountains?

Will there be anarchy and looting, siege and starvation? Or will there be a peaceful transfer of power, a compromise administration or even a military coup?

These are the questions being asked in the nervous capital, Kabul, as departing Soviet troop transport planes drone overhead and foreign diplomats pack their bags.

"Nobody here or anywhere else knows what the hell is going to happen," said a Western aid administrator. "This town is a maelstrom of

rumours."

"The closer you get to the problem, the harder it is to say what is going to happen," a diplomat commented. "In the streets and bazaars, the questions are usually met with a shrug and a gesture of 'How do I know?'"

President Najibullah's government says confidently that nothing will change.

"After Feb. 15, I will be sitting in my chair and working," Kabul Mayor Mohammad Hakim said. "We know that we can manage by ourselves. We can defend ourselves."

"All will be normal, there will be no sensation." Soviet Deputy Commander General Lev Serebrotov told Reuters.

"I am sure that they can handle their own problems," added Colonel Gennady Klyukov who has spent about 10 years in Afghanistan. "In every institution they have their own defence groups. They have weapons. They have training."

Since the signing of the withdrawal agreement last April, Soviet ground forces have by and large held back from

offensives against the Mujahedeen rebels.

Rebel strategy

The government has ceded territory near the Pakistan border and lost some posts but it still holds all the main towns. The Mujahedeen can fire rockets into Kabul but they cannot face the 40,000-strong army in pitched battle.

"For more than seven months we have defended our country and our revolution and we know we can do it alone," Mayor Hakim told a news conference.

Last year, Najibullah himself acknowledged, however, that the PDPA could not rule the whole country alone.

The rebels say that without the Soviet guns to back it up, the government will crumble quickly. Most Western diplomats feel Najibullah's administration will not survive indefinitely if the war goes on, despite enormous stocks of Soviet-supplied munitions.

"A year ago, I would have said the regime could survive for a very long time if not for

ever. It has the equipment, it can divide the Mujahedeen and so on," a senior Western diplomat said.

"Things have moved on from that. The psychology of the situation is such that the regime seems doomed."

The key factor is whether the PDPA can continue to command the loyalty of the armed forces. "They have got the equipment to go on for ever. The only question is how much longer they will want to," he said.

Fears of army take-over

Among the rumours buzzing around Kabul is that the armed forces might overthrow the PDPA and seek a negotiated settlement with the Mujahedeen.

"It's a question of morale," another Western analyst said. "If this regime lasts two years it will last indefinitely."

The Mujahedeen do not have the strength for an all-out assault on Kabul. Most analysts expect them to try to isolate cities in the hope that they collapse or surrender one

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

PROGRAMME ONE	18:30	19:00	19:30	20:00	20:30	21:00	21:30	22:00
Koran	18:30	19:00	19:30	20:00	20:30	21:00	21:30	22:00
Programme review	18:30	19:00	19:30	20:00	20:30	21:00	21:30	22:00
Children programmes	18:30	19:00	19:30	20:00	20:30	21:00	21:30	22:00
Educational programme	18:30	19:00	19:30	20:00	20:30	21:00	21:30	22:00
Religious programme	18:30	19:00	19:30	20:00	20:30	21:00	21:30	22:00
News summary in Arabic	18:30	19:00	19:30	20:00	20:30	21:00	21:30	22:00
Programme on world news	18:30	19:00	19:30	20:00	20:30	21:00	21:30	22:00
Programme on children	18:30	19:00	19:30	20:00	20:30	21:00	21:30	22:00
Agicultural programme	18:30	19:00	19:30	20:00	20:30	21:00	21:30	22:00
News in Arabic	18:30	19:00	19:30	20:00	20:30	21:00	21:30	22:00
Arabic series	18:30	19:00	19:30	20:00	20:30	21:00	21:30	22:00
Programme review	18:30	19:00	19:30	20:00	20:30	21:00	21:30	22:00
Local programme	18:30	19:00	19:30	20:00	20:30	21:00	21:30	22:00
Arabic programme	18:30	19:00	19:30	20:00	20:30	21:00	21:30	22:00
News summary in Arabic	18:30	19:00	19:30	20:00	20:30	21:00	21:30	22:00

PROGRAMME TWO	18:00	18:30	19:00	19:30	20:00	20:30	21:00	21:30
La Belle Anglaise	18:00	18:30	19:00	19:30	20:00	20:30	21:00	21:30
News in French	18:00	18:30	19:00	19:30	20:00	20:30	21:00	21:30
French varieties	18:00	18:30	19:00	19:30	20:00	20:30	21:00	21:30
News in Hebrew	18:00	18:30	19:00	19:30	20:00	20:30	21:00	21:30

CHURCHES	Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 62785	St. Joseph Church Tel. 624990	Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	Terranova Church Tel. 622666	Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 62541
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USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	AMMAN:	Dr. Walid Al Masri 675485	Dr. Issam Hawandeh 624830	Dr. Abdul Rahim Ahmed 744685	Dr. Abdul Oader Al Lala 896046	First pharmacy 661912	Ferdows pharmacy 782336	Al Asena pharmacy 637853	Naironh pharmacy 623672	Al Salam pharmacy 636730
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EMERGENCIES	Civil Defence Department 661111	Raise 630341	Civil Defence Emergency 199	Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777	Fire Brigade 62090903	Blood Bank 775121	Highway Police 845402	Traffic Police 65690991	Public Security Department 656000 / 685111	Hotel Complaints 605800	Price Complaints 836140	Water and Sewerage 661176
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HOSPITALS	AMMAN:	Hussien Medical Centre 813813/2	Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn. 642816	Akhil Maternity, J. Amn. 642412	Jabal Amman Maternity 642362	Mahab, J. Amman 836140	Palestine, Shmeisani 661174
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MARKET PRICES	Upper/lower price in fils per kg.	Apple (red) 500 / 450	Apple (yellow) 450 / 400
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MARKET PRICES	Banana 350 / 300	Banana (Mukammar) 300 / 250	Beans 800 / 600	Broad beans 800 / 700	Cabbage 160 / 100	Carrots 240 / 200	Cauliflower 200 / 160	Cucumbers 480 / 400	Dates 600 / 400	Eggplant 160 / 120	Garlic 280 / 200	Grapefruit 170 / 120	Lemon 220 / 180	Lettuce (per one) 120 / 80	Marrow (large) 320 / 280	Marrow (small) 680 / 420	Orange (French) 350 / 300	Orange (Shamouti) 380 / 320	Orange (local) 240 / 200	Onion (green) 240 / 180	Onion (dry) 280 / 220	Pepper (hot) 520 / 450	Pepper (sweet) 400 / 400	Potato 250 / 200	Splach 150 / 100	Mandarin 280 / 220	Tomatoes 210 / 160
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Seminar opens on pollution

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — A two-day seminar on environmental pollution in Jordan opened Monday at the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor.

The seminar was expected to discuss means of enhancing the Jordanian public's awareness on the dangers of environmental pollution and food contamination, as well as ways of compiling additional scientific research on environmental pollution.

Sociology students at the University of Jordan initiated the seminar after they found that there is insufficient information on pollution in Jordan and that the public was unaware of the hazards of pollution.

The seminar is to examine the feasibility of establishing a "consumer protection society" the primary task of which would be enhancing awareness on the healthiest and safest ways of handling food.

The society would also expose the dangers of expired food, and serve as a centre for studies on nutrition. It will establish scientific links worldwide and advise the public on consumer goods, as well as the best "value for money" goods.

Speaking during the opening of



Her Majesty Queen Noor Monday attends the opening of a seminar on environmental pollution in Jordan at the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

the seminar, sociology student Amal Safadi, a student at University of Jordan's Sociology Department, explained that students at the department initiated the seminar in order to "study an issue of great importance not only on the national level but also on the international level."

Safadi stressed the need to highlight the role of the public in dealing with the dangers of contamination and pollution.

Also addressing the seminar was United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Regional Director Dr. Hamed Khawad, who called for added care of the environment and natural resources. He emphasised the need for education, guidance and direction on all levels.

Mrs. Hind Abu Jaber, president of the Business and Professional Women's Club, which is

also taking part in the seminar, expressed the society's support for activities aimed at creating a "healthy society able to produce and participate in building our country."

Queen Noor, honorary president of the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature, spoke on the issue at the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in Paris in October 1988.

British MP praises Jordan's efforts to help Palestinian cause

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein's decision to sever legal and administrative ties with the West Bank last year was a very wise step, and reflected far-sightedness because it led to placing the Palestine issue on the top of priorities in the peace process, according to the head of a visiting British parliamentary delegation.

Richard Page, who arrived here early Monday on a two-day visit, was speaking at a meeting with Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi and several senate members.

Page said history will record that the Jordanian decision was the most significant step in the on-going endeavours to render support for the Palestinians and the Palestine cause.

Page added that Jordan's moderate and balanced policy constitutes a very positive element in a region beset with tension and marked with instability.

to this development to a large extent, he added.

For his part, Lawzi said that the Palestine issue constitutes the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict, and "the circumstances are very favourable at present for finding a lasting and comprehensive solu-

tion for this problem.

"This favourable situation should be exploited and serious moves at the international level should be made to achieve that objective," Lawzi noted.

He said that the King's call for an international conference reflects Jordan's true orientation towards peace and profound faith in the international legitimacy and the role of the U.N. Security Council in implementing Resolutions 242 and 338.

Referring to the uprising in the occupied territories, Lawzi said: "It is a true expression of the Palestinian people's rejection of

Israeli occupation and a struggle to regain their legitimate rights." Lawzi paid tribute to the British information media which, he said, helped to expose Israel's malpractices and human rights violations in the occupied territories.

He also referred to the Anglo-Jordanian relations which he described as historic and which had grown and developed in a manner beneficial to the two countries.

Lawzi called on Britain to play a role within the European Economic Community to help bring about a just and durable peace to the region.

parliamentarians currently visiting Jordan (Petra photo)



Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi Monday receives a delegation of British parliamentarians currently visiting Jordan (Petra photo)

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

CABINET ENDORSES HRC BUDGET: The Cabinet Monday endorsed the budget of the Hijaz Railway Corporation (HRC) for the current fiscal year. The Cabinet also approved the participation of the Ministry of Tourism in the international tourism exhibition, due to be held in Paris on Feb. 16. (Petra)

ENCOURAGING INVESTMENT: The Cabinet has endorsed a recommendation by the Investment Encouragement Committee concerning 12 projects in the country. The committee has recommended that the 12 projects be considered as economic development projects and be given exemptions and privileges as provided for in the law on the encouragement of investment in Jordan. (Petra)

DAMAGES IN JORDAN VALLEY: The chairman of the board of directors of the Jordan Valley Farmers Federation has decided to form a committee to assess the damage to the citrus trees caused by the recent frost that hit the Jordan Valley. (Petra)

TOURISM IN ZARQA: Zarqa Governor Eid Qataneh chaired a meeting for the Tourism Promotion Committee and discussed with them efforts to encourage tourism in the governorate and to improve the touristic attractions in the governorate. (Petra)

TEACHING BASIC SKILLS IN AGRICULTURE: A special course on teaching basic skills in agriculture was held Monday at the Princess Basma Centre for Social Services in Tafleh, with 25 social workers attending. The course is organised by Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund in cooperation with Tafleh agriculture department. (Petra)

COURSE ON BROADCASTING ENDS: Director General of Jordan Broadcasting and Television Corporation Munir Durra Monday presented certificates to 16 technicians from the corporation who concluded a three week training course on sound equipment. Participants received lessons on sound mixers, recording machines, studios, sound effects and external broadcasting. (Petra)

TARAWNEH INSPECTS SUPPLIES IN MAFRAQ: Supply Minister Faysal Tarawneh Monday inspected the Supply Department and warehouses in Mafraq and discussed with officials there, including the Mafraq governor, possibilities of increasing the governorate's quota of basic supplies. Tarawneh also visited the Irbid Supply Department and the grain silos. (Petra)

JCO TO ESTABLISH 2 SOCIETIES: The Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) has consented to the establishment of two societies in Jerash district. The JCO Director Mawid Al Tal said that the two societies: one for stock breeders and the other for the residents of a housing estate for Jerash Municipality employees will commence their activities immediately. (Petra)

AJLOUNI MEETS CHINESE ENVOY: Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Zuhair Ajlouni Monday received China's Ambassador to Jordan Zhang Zhen. They discussed Jordanian-Chinese relations. (Petra)

HASHISH DEALER JAILED: The military court has sentenced Mohammad Ali Hassan Kamel to a two year imprisonment and the payment of JD 500 for possessing hashish. The military governor Monday endorsed the sentence. (Petra)

DEVELOPING PROFESSIONAL CADRES: Yarmouk University Vice-President for Administrative Affairs Fuad Al Sheikh Salem Monday said that Jordan is about to enter a new phase in development, progress and distinguished performance, and outlined the importance of the Jordanian universities in providing support through the provision of qualified and well-trained cadres in all fields. Addressing a programme on developing professional cadres, organised by the Faculty of Economy and Administrative Sciences, Salem called for a thorough and comprehensive review of the teaching and evaluation methods applicable in the educational institutions, if the educational process is to be strengthened. (Petra)

VOLUNTARY WORK CAMP: A voluntary work camp for 83 students from the Yarmouk University was concluded in North Shouneh Monday.

Malaysian army chief visits Martyr's Monument

AMMAN (Petra) — Visiting Malaysian Army Chief of Staff General Tan Sri Hashem Monday called at the Martyr's Monument on the outskirts of Amman and inspected items and military equipment that related to the development of the Jordanian Armed Forces.

Later he received a token gift from the assistant army chief of staff for operations.

Also Monday, Gen. Tan visited the headquarters of the Third Royal Armoured Division and met with its commander and senior officers who briefed him on their duties.

He inspected the division's formations and watched military exercises.

Gen. Tan also visited the King Hussein Military Workshops and was briefed by the local commander on the development of the workshops and its duties.

Jordan to present awards for best works in arts, sciences

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Culture and National Heritage will this year begin presenting awards and prizes to citizens for outstanding works in literature, science, social sciences and arts, but special awards will go for remarkable subjects tackling Islamic studies, according to Minister of Culture and National Heritage Mohammad Hammouri.

The minister said that the practice, which will be a form of an encouragement for writers and artists, reflects the spirit of recent meetings by ministers of culture in the Islamic World held at Dakar, Senegal.

The minister who was making a statement upon his return to Amman from the Dakar meeting said that the delegates to the conference decided to lay down a cultural strategy for Islamic countries to promote the Islamic culture and heritage.

The conference decided to set up a special committee to take charge of the project which, he said, is designed to back the Islamic Nation's endeavours to safeguard and highlight the Islamic culture and Islamic identity. Upon Jordan's proposal, the

conference issued a statement urging Islamic countries to honour Muslim intellectuals, artists and authors to encourage them to pursue their work for the Islamic Nation, the minister noted.

He said in this context the conference paid tribute to the Egyptian author Najib Mahfouz whose writings last year won him the Nobel Prize for Literature.

Hammouri said that the conference urged Islamic countries to introduce legislations that would impose a ban on illegal import-export operations of Islamic cultural relics and to work towards retrieving those that had been removed or stolen from the Islamic World.

The conference voiced its deepest appreciation for Jordan's efforts to provide protection to the historical and cultural identity of the Arab City of Jerusalem and urged Islamic nations to help expose and condemn Israel's plans aimed at changing or distorting Islamic religious and historical status of the holy city, the minister noted.

Hammouri said that the conference decided to hold seminars

with the participation of historians, intellectuals and scholars from Islamic countries to highlight the cultural and Islamic identity of Jerusalem.

Furthermore, the conference which was attended by ministers from the Organisation of Islamic Conference member states reviewed obstacles impeding the work of universities in the Islamic World and called on those concerned to pursue efforts towards coordination among their institutions.

During his stay in Dakar, Hammouri said he met separately with Islamic ministers of culture to discuss their countries' cooperation with Jordan in cultural affairs.

The conference which was attended by 40 ministers of whom 20 were from the Arab World reviewed a report by the organisation's secretariat on various activities by Islamic centres and Islamic universities in Niger, Uganda, Malaysia and Bangladesh, as well as cultural centres sponsored by Saudi Arabia in Chad and those in Mali, Pakistan and Guinea Bissau.

Ministry seeks to promote services of local councils

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment is working out a three-year plan for the joint services councils, designed to promote operations by local councils in all regions, according to an announcement by Minister of Municipal Affairs Marwan Hmoud.

In the course of preparing the plan, the ministry has conducted a comprehensive assessment of the activities of these councils, current programmes and projects they carried out in the past years, as well as requirements for the coming three years, the minister said in a statement at a meeting attended by directors of municipal affairs departments.

Hmoud said that the joint services council should serve as a nucleus for a wider developmental unit that can cater to the needs and requirements of all local communities.

The plan, the minister said, aims to help the councils carry out projects and proposes the establishment of centres to conduct maintenance on machinery and other equipment employed by these councils in the pro-



Marwan Hmoud

vinces. He said that the plan will conform a government project designed to develop rural councils and their operations. The meeting, held at the minister's office, tackled the role of the ministry's departments in the provinces which, the minister said, should supervise and follow up the implementation of construction and road projects.

Ripples and jolts over quake-resistant code

(Continued from page 1)

"whether the stones are interlaced well and on the quality of construction materials and workmanship."

However, since these conditions are usually not met by all designers, engineers or contractors, there is a possibility that houses may not withstand a strong quake, agreed Jabaji, Suyagh and University of Jordan professor of civil engineering (reinforced concrete) Dr. Bahjat Abdul Fattah.

Construction quality
Jabaji and Suyagh referred to the construction, and quality of concrete backing behind stone walls. "There is no quality control on the materials or the workmanship," said Jabaji. "The result is that the concrete backing is not one integral unit, but lines of concrete which would not hold together" (in the case of an earthquake).

Abdul Fattah added that in case of a major earthquake, many buildings in Jordan would suffer extensive cracks in the walls "and may have to be demolished completely since they would prove to be unsafe for inhabitants."

Stone, Abdul Fattah says, is more dangerous than any other construction material if the workmanship is poor. But it remains unknown how resistant to quakes stone buildings actually are. "No tests on stone building have been conducted in any of the countries interested in earthquake construction," he said.

Abdul Fattah has submitted a proposal for testing buildings in Jordan to the Ministry of Planning. The proposal involves financial assistance for equipment since Jordan does not have earthquake simulators. Abdul Fattah finds such research and testing as necessary.

The proposal was supported by the University of Jordan. However, the university lacks the funds needed for such a project. The president of the university has written to the Ministry of Planning on

Abdul Fattah's behalf. Abdul Fattah, who spent four years testing buildings in the U.S., said the ministry initially said it would support him, "but, no action was taken."

In addition to poor workmanship and material, recent experiments in architecture "have left openings in the box-shaped structure, making such buildings less resistant," Jabaji said. Big windows, which take up a large part of the wall, are incorporated at the expense of sturdy walls, he said.

Parking spaces on the ground floor of buildings "are the most dangerous form of construction," he said, explaining "there is an enormous risk factor when massive construction rests on columns."

The use of stone and reinforced concrete will provide protection to many in some areas of Amman since the zoning law prohibits buildings involving more than four stories. Experts believe that low-rise buildings, a "special characteristics" of the capital, work to the benefit of the citizens living there in case of an earthquake.

However, inhabitants of heavily populated areas "will be hit the worst." According to Jabaji, there are two types of construction in these areas: plain concrete without reinforcement and columns and slabs.

Although plain concrete could be "strong and sturdy," poor quality of cement has created an adverse effect, and "the use of slabs and columns is just plain dangerous," he said. Faith in simple concrete construction was shaken after a 1923 earthquake in Tokyo where low-rise concrete building became tombs for countless families.

Homes built of mud may be able to withstand a quake if it is well built, "especially if the joints of the walls are sturdy," he said.

Due to lack of finances at the RSS, no studies have been conducted to indicate the number of families living in mud and concrete buildings and areas of their concentration.

Officials and experts in Jordan have been aware of the general risk of earthquakes in the region and the importance of designing homes to be earthquake resistant since 1977. However, when an earthquake code was first suggested, "we were ridiculed," said Jabaji.

Construction code
"Earthquakes had ceased to be real to people living in Jordan until the 1982 quake in Agaba which resulted in casualties," said Issa, adding that not only were people's

interests aroused, but concerned parties started working seriously on an earthquake resistant construction code.

By 1986, such a code was drawn up and subsequently adopted by the higher building commission and was included in the national building code of Jordan specifying the elements which must be included in design to ensure that the building is earthquake resistant.

Since the government has adopted the code, it must be adhered to. But, Jabaji points out that since the code is not a law, its implementation is not compulsory. "It is up to the individual engineer on whether he will apply the code or not," he said. However, more often than not, the code is not applied, he added.

As it stands now, the code has a clause which more or less says that if a building has four stories and is constructed of strong and sturdy walls there is no need for earthquake resistant designs, since the structure will be considered strong enough," he said.

The assistant head of the technical department of the Engineers' Association, Faisal Masri, said engineers support the code and are officially required to adhere to it since it is by-law. However, Masri believes that the code should have full legislative backing.

Designs for all building in Jordan must receive the prior approval of the Engineers' Association and the Ministry of Public Works. "We aren't choosy if the buildings are not more than three stories high plus a penthouse," said Masri, adding that although regular houses do not conform to the earthquake code, it is compulsory for multi-storey buildings.

The request for legislating the law was presented to the prime minister's office. According to the prime minister's office, the code is presently with the minister of public works for any addition or alteration prior to be tabled before the Council of Ministers.

"The present status of the code is good. It can only be ideal if it becomes a law since it will then protect the citizens of being cheated and from engineers' non-compliance," said Jabaji.

The code has also come under criticism on the grounds that it was not "Jordanian" and based on other countries' research. Experts agree that the earthquake experiences of other countries can sufficiently provide the Kingdom with the necessary technical knowhow for earthquake resistant construction.

Manual under preparation

A design manual for earthquake resistant building is being prepared by the RSS, the Ministry of Planning and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) in the near future, financed by the Arab Fund.

To further engineers' knowledge on earthquake resistant construction several seminars have been held and are being planned by the RSS and a consultancy service is offered by the RSS for any engineer or citizen wishing to design, construct, buy or repair a building.

Jabaji points out that none of the cases brought to the consultancy centre deals with earthquake resistance construction, "but we do have the technical capability to advise anyone on how to strengthen any building."

But, whether all these efforts will prove worthwhile is doubted by some. Both Jabaji and Suyagh who strongly support the measures being taken point out that earthquake resistance buildings require "five times more the effort on behalf of the designer and engineer and five times the effort."

The problem might be the people themselves," Jabaji said.

He explained that individuals planning to build a home may not be concerned "if an earthquake happens 80 years from now, especially if their home will cost them five times as much."

The reason for the extra effort and financing is due to the need to design the building "piece by piece as one unit," three-dimensionally," said Jabaji. While consultant engineers are paid four per cent of the total cost of the building in England and the U.S., their counterparts in Jordan are only paid 0.1 per cent.

However, if the code becomes a law then the clients would be forced to abide by law. With the resulting increase in number of clients, Suyagh predicts, engineers will be forced to lower their rates.

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All applications will be treated in absolute confidence. This notice is also appearing in a number of newspapers in countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- * An exhibition of works by Contemporary Arab Artists at Al Wasiti Art Gallery.
- * A plastic art exhibition by Egyptian artist Yassin Ibrahim Mohammad at the Housing Bank Gallery.
- * A photography exhibition entitled "Under Pure Skies" exhibiting 100 19th century photographs of the Middle East at the Royal Cultural Centre — 5:30 p.m.

SYMPOSIUM

- * A symposium organised by the University of Jordan Sociology Department on "Environmental pollution in Jordan" at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation's Scientific and Cultural Centre.

LECTURE

- * A lecture by Dr. Nijmeddin Yousef of the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at the Yarmouk University on "The evolution of the Red Sea in the last 30,000 years" at the Goethe Institute — 7:00 p.m.

FILM

- * A scientific film on the mechanism and functions of the brain (part 5) at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.

Jordan Times

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Helping Lebanese help themselves

BRINGING Lebanese civilian Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss and Lebanon's military Prime Minister Michel Aoun together under the Arab League roof in Tunis Sunday is a big feat in itself. On strength of this "spectacular" achievement, the Arab League ministerial committee, charged with the formidable task of reconciling the differences between the "two governments" in Lebanon, should be able to move on with its task of bringing the two sides together for all times. Whereas the differences between the two sides appear to be great, the similarities between them as exemplified by their apparent readiness to talk under the aegis of the Arab League are even greater. The first order of business for the ministerial committee and the two Lebanese heads of government should be of course to prepare the groundwork for an early presidential election in Lebanon to bring back to that beleaguered country legitimacy and orderly conduct of government. But that objective, on its own, would not remedy the overall situation because Lebanon's dilemma is part constitutional, part eco-political and part religious. But as Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah has said, before leaving to Tunis Saturday to take part in the Arab League's goodwill mission, there could be no solution to the Lebanese decade and a half long crisis without the cooperation of all the Lebanese factions themselves. Sheikh Sabah has put it in the bluntest of terms when he said that "the situation in Lebanon is complicated and depends first, second and third on the Lebanese themselves and on the extent to which they respond to the efforts of their brothers in the Arab World." As true and valid as these remarks and assessments are, the Lebanese people need help and they need that help mostly from their Arab brothers. It is clear by now that left on their own, the Lebanese factions will not be able to bridge the gaps and differences that so bitterly separate them. The Arab intervention to help the Lebanese help themselves in the form of the Arab ministerial committee is the kind of rescue mission that Lebanon urgently needs and awaits. The two principal Lebanese sides have already conceded this much by eagerly travelling to Tunis to place their fate in the hands of the Arab League ministerial committee. This is indeed a historic moment in the struggle to reunite Lebanon and its people which this conciliatory Arab ministerial committee must not miss or let pass without solid results. Likewise, the Lebanese factions must not also let this opportunity pass them by without reciprocating Arab goodwill with Lebanese common sense. The alternative for Lebanon and the Arab World is indeed ominous and fraught with infinite mines and boobytraps. All Arabs therefore pray that this last ditch Arab League effort will be crowned with the kind of success that will make them proud to be Arabs.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

The conclusion of the ninth Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee meeting in Cairo is the theme for Al Ra'i Arabic daily Monday. The close cooperation pursued by the two countries in industry, agriculture and other fields, serves as a model for all Arab countries wishing to bolster their economies and improve their status, the paper said. The two countries have clearly achieved many successes and paved the way for full integration in all fields, and this is a manifestation of the determination to work seriously and resolutely to serve the Arab people in general and the Egyptian and Jordanian citizens in particular, the paper noted. It said that the achievements are bound to boost solidarity among Arab states and pave the ground for the projected economic grouping with North Yemen and Iraq. Through diligence and serious endeavours, the paper said, the higher committee has been able to attain these accomplishments, but it added, the way is still long and hard to achieve total integration and attain the aspired goals.

A columnist in Al Ra'i newspaper Monday reflects on U.S. President George Bush's invitation to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to visit Washington in order to pave the way for peace talks on the Middle East. Abdul Rahim Omar says that Bush has thus taken the first and early step in involving himself and his administration in a process for ending the Arab-Israeli conflict for the sake of achieving peace. This invitation could mean that Bush wants to hear Shamir's clear views following the start of the U.S.-PLO dialogue and the PLO's declarations in Algiers; or because Bush plans to follow in the footsteps of his predecessor in approaching the Middle East problem, the writer points out. He says that Bush could also be planning to bridge the gap that had been created over the past two months between Washington and Tel Aviv as a result of Middle East developments. However, he adds, the U.S. president is also expected to call to Washington other Middle Eastern leaders whose views are essential for the new administration and which will undoubtedly drum up the idea of an international conference — the only feasible forum for establishing the aspired peace.

Al Dustour daily commented on the conclusion of the Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee meeting in Cairo, describing it as one more step towards bolstering Arab economy and enhancing solidarity among Arab states. The paper said that the committee's resolutions are clearly intended as steps towards unity which is now starting in the form of economic integration between Egypt and Jordan. A statement by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai on the current coordination between the two countries focused on the two countries' determination to pursue work on a solid foundation with both leaderships aiming to serve higher national Arab interest. Rifai declared that Jordan and Egypt hold identical positions with regard to enhancing solidarity among Arab states on the one hand and the on-going efforts to support the Palestinians to regain their rights on the other. Thus one can see, the paper said, that Cairo and Amman are moving ahead with determination and resolve to offer political and economic service to the Arab cause.

Kissinger's star is rising again

By Jeff Gerth

WASHINGTON — For most of the Reagan era Henry A. Kissinger's profile in Washington was low, except sporadically in 1983, when the former secretary of state headed a presidential commission on Central America. Seven years ago his New York-based consulting firm, Kissinger Associates, opened offices here.

Now some people, particularly conservatives, are wondering whether Mr. Kissinger and his views will gain higher visibility in the foreign policy chambers of government.

Two principals in the firm have just resigned to assume senior positions in the Bush administration. Brent Scowcroft, the firm's former vice chairman, is President George Bush's national security adviser, and Lawrence S. Eagleburger, who was president of Kissinger Associates, has been named deputy secretary of state.

Mr. Kissinger himself maintains a window into the intelligence community through his membership on the Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board, whose

members have access to highly classified information and advise the president directly on a wide range of intelligence issues.

Mr. Scowcroft and Mr. Eagleburger both worked in the government for Mr. Kissinger in the 1970s, but went on to achieve considerable success on their own. Mr. Scowcroft as national security adviser to Gerald R. Ford and Mr. Eagleburger as undersecretary of state for political affairs under Ronald Reagan.

Nevertheless, some conservatives see Mr. Kissinger's shadow in the reappearance of Mr. Scowcroft and Mr. Eagleburger in high positions. The conservatives see increased Kissinger influence and an apparent betrayal of the political movement that put Mr. Reagan in office.

While Mr. Kissinger has taken many conservative positions, including deep-seated suspicion of Communist governments, right-wing conservatives still say he has not gone far enough in opposing those regimes.

"To a large degree Kissinger will, in effect, be in charge of foreign affairs behind the scenes,

and this seems like a betrayal of the political revolution that put Reagan in office," said David Funderburk, a conservative who was for a time Mr. Reagan's ambassador to Romania.

Mr. Kissinger said he found that suggestion mildly amusing but not true. "My views on foreign policy are well known," he said. "I don't need a conspiracy."

Conservatives say they distrust him and Mr. Eagleburger, seeing them as too accommodating in their dealings with the Soviet Union and other Communist countries.

Mr. Kissinger characterised his contribution to the staffing of the new administration thus far as "marginal" but said he had recently discussed Mr. Eagleburger's possible appointment with James A. Baker 3d, the secretary of state, and had also had conversations with Mr. Bush.

Mr. Kissinger pointedly put distance between his consulting work for about two dozen multinational corporations and his friendships. "I do not use friends for business; I will not volunteer to call them," he said, referring

to Mr. Scowcroft and Mr. Eagleburger. But "if they called and asked my advice" on questions of policy, "I would discuss that with them. We'll have to see how that develops."

The link between politics and business, a perennial Washington topic, is likely to figure in Mr. Eagleburger's Senate confirmation hearings. Conservatives intend to question him about his private business dealings, especially in Yugoslavia, where he served as ambassador from 1977 to 1981.

Thomas E. Boney Jr., deputy staff director for the Republican members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said that Senator Jesse Helms, the North Carolina Republican who is the ranking minority member, intended to examine Mr. Eagleburger's business affairs.

Mr. Helms's interest in Yugoslav business deals is predicated by his political differences with Mr. Eagleburger over U.S. policy toward Eastern Europe, including issues the senator raised at earlier Eagleburger confirmation hearings.

While he was in the government, Mr. Eagleburger actively promoted bilateral trade between the United States and Yugoslavia, sometimes over the strong objections of top officials in the administration.

In early 1985, nine months after he left the State Department, Mr. Eagleburger joined the board of Yugo America Inc., the U.S. distributor of the Yugo, the automobile manufactured by a large Yugoslav company.

Kissinger Associates became paid consultants to Yugo America and its parent company, the Global Motors Corp., according to Mr. Kissinger and Yugo officials.

Since he left the State Department, Mr. Eagleburger has also been a director of the U.S. branch of a Yugoslav financial institution, LBS Bank of New York, owned by Ljubljanska Banka in Ljubljana, the capital of Slovenia.

Mr. Kissinger said that "90 per cent of our business is giving advice" to corporate clients, with no representation before the U.S. government and no discussion of

specific business transactions with foreign leaders.

When told of some clients who in interviews had described Mr. Kissinger's dealings with foreign leaders on the clients' behalf and the access to government officials they thought he offered, the former secretary of state called those dealings "most unusual."

"They may have a perception of access and I probably do," he said, adding that his conversations with top government officials have been "mostly a question of information on issues."

The appointments of Mr. Eagleburger and Mr. Scowcroft will provide the first public disclosure of the identity of some of the firm's clients. Mr. Kissinger said he was "very relaxed" about that.

He has never publicly disclosed his firm's clients, but a number of corporations have been identified as such in news accounts, including Chase Manhattan Bank, American Express, General Electric Co. of Britain and L.M. Ericsson (Sweden). Their annual fees typically are in the hundreds of thousands of dollars — New York Times.

East announces force cuts, NATO will not reciprocate

By Patrick Worsnip
Reuters

LONDON — The Soviet Union and its allies are falling over themselves to announce military cutbacks, but NATO, seeing this as a public relations ploy, does not plan to respond until new East-West force reduction talks start in March.

In the past two months, the Soviet Union, East Germany, Poland and Hungary have all promised to trim their armed forces and their defence spending. A partial withdrawal of Soviet forces from Eastern Europe has also been scheduled.

It sounds like the answer to NATO's prayers, and indeed the alliance has had no alternative but to welcome the moves, but not far behind the official statements of approval there is mild discomfort, almost irritation.

The harder-line Western officials see the cuts as militarily insignificant and politically mischievous, aimed at putting pressure on NATO to announce reductions of its own and call off its programme of modernising short-range nuclear weapons.

This alliance has no intention of doing. "Warsaw Pact superiority in conventional forces is general knowledge and in view of this to reciprocate to statements of intent is unrealistic," a spokesman said in Brussels on Thursday.

NATO believes a new struggle is on for the hearts and minds of Western publics in the build-up to the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) talks starting in Vienna on March 9.

"It's a public opinion battle," says Colonel Andrew Duncan of the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS). "The Warsaw Pact is softening up NATO negotiators beforehand, and perhaps hoping that someone in NATO will think they've got to respond."

In the past two months, pact countries have announced the following moves:

— The Soviet Union has said it will cut its five-million-strong

armed forces by 500,000 men, including 240,000 in its European territory, and will reduce defence spending — whose total figure is unpublished — by 14.2 per cent.

It will also withdraw 5,000 tanks and 50,000 men, including six divisions, from front-line positions in Eastern Europe in two stages in 1989 and 1990. Four of the 19 Soviet divisions in East Germany, one of the five in Czechoslovakia and one of the four in Hungary will go. In addition, Poland says some Soviet units it hosts — estimated by Western analysts at less than 10,000 of the 45,000 men concerned — will leave.

The departing Soviet divisions will take with them 24 Frog ground-launched nuclear missiles, of 1965 vintage, with a range of 70 kilometres.

— East Germany has said it will reduce its 176,000-strong armed forces by 10,000 men and cut defence spending by 10 per cent by the end of next year. Six hundred of its 3,000 tanks and 50 of its 334 combat aircraft will be removed from service.

— Poland says its already shed 15,000 men from its armed forces, currently put at 394,000 by the IISS, and will dispense with tens of thousands more. Defence spending will drop by four per cent in real terms this year compared with last.

— Hungary has announced a 17 per cent drop in its defence budget this year and a reduction in length of national service which Western analysts say will mean a cut of 15,000 men in its 99,000-strong armed forces.

Western experts say the cuts fall well short of what NATO will be seeking at the CFE, and that by getting rid of surplus men and obsolete weapons, Eastern bloc forces could actually increase their efficiency.

"They've still got a great superiority in offensive forces even after the cuts," Duncan said.

Warsaw Pact officials deny they are just playing to the gallery.

"This is not a desire to please

public opinion," Oleg Grinevsky, Soviet roving ambassador for arms control, said in London last week. "It involves profound and substantial changes in the structure and posture of our armed forces, necessitated by our own internal development."

Western analysts concede that the Eastern countries, all trying to breathe new life into sickly economies, have strong domestic motives for wanting to lower military budgets.

Nevertheless, they are convinced that the pact initiatives are targeted at Western pacifists, especially in West Germany where a divided cabinet is faced with a public anxious to minimise the number of nuclear weapons in their country.

The West German government is believed willing to endorse long-standing NATO plans for modernising while at the same time reducing short-range nuclear warheads. But the exact timing — the alliance wants to give the plan the go-ahead this year — is likely to prove tricky for Bonn.

Grinevsky said it would be illogical to have conventional forces talks without parallel negotiations starting soon to reduce tactical nuclear weapons — those with a range of less than 500 kilometres.

But key NATO countries like the United States, Britain and France, fearing the alliance could be denuded of its nuclear deterrent, put such talks at the bottom of their priorities.

Meanwhile, NATO has fired its own opening shot ahead of the CFE talks by publishing last November figures on the East-West force balance in Europe, showing Warsaw Pact superiority ranging from 3.1 to one in tanks to 1.4 to one in manpower. The pact has rejected the figures and promised to publish its own by the end of January.

Western experts expect NATO to argue in Vienna that it is for the East to make almost all the reductions, and that ceilings for both sides' troops and arms should be set at around 95 per cent of what NATO currently has.

China, Soviet Union move to amend decades of distrust

By Jim Abrams
The Associated Press

BEIJING — Thirty years ago the Communist Monolith shattered with the bitter rift between China and the Soviet Union. Today, the world's two largest Communist states are gathering the pieces of their long-lost solidarity.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze arrives in Beijing on Feb. 2 to advance the rapidly accelerating process of political normalisation between the two countries.

His visit is expected to lay the groundwork for Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's visit next spring for the first Sino-Soviet summit since Nikita Khrushchev and Mao Tse-tung held divisive talks in 1959.

Gorbachev's talks with senior leader Deng Xiaoping and other Chinese leaders will formally end a freeze on party and government relations that set in when the two countries split over ideological and strategic differences in 1960.

Economic and cultural relations have seen steady improvement since the two sides first embarked on political normalisation talks in 1982.

Trade last year was an estimated \$2.8 billion, up from \$300 million in 1982. The two countries will exchange nearly 1,000 scholars this year, compared to 10 in 1983. Sister-city programmes are being formed, joint ventures established and tours conducted across borders once demarcated by barbed wire and bayonets.

China's headline stance toward the Soviet Union has softened considerably in the past year as it joins the world trend toward détente. Chinese officials perceive major progress in what they label the "three obstacles" to normal ties with Moscow.

The most important obstacle, Soviet support for Vietnam's invasion of Cambodia, remains the toughest to overcome. But last August the two sides for the first time met face-to-face on the issue and agreed it was time for Vietnam to get out. China, backer of the anti-Vietnam resistance in Cambodia, has welcomed Hanoi's plans to withdraw its

troops by September.

Gorbachev, who has actively pursued an end to Sino-Soviet ill-will, has taken steps to remove the other two obstacles by pledging to end the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan and to reduce by 200,000 the number of Soviet troops in Asia — mainly on the tense Sino-Soviet border.

Despite the heady progress in Soviet relations, the real interests of China as it strives to improve the lives of its 1 billion people remain in furthering economic, technological and even cultural ties with the West.

Chinese leaders insist they will never return to the Sino-Soviet relations of the 1950s, when Beijing depended on Moscow's economic largesse and obediently adhered to its strategic interests.

That halcyon period, once described as "lasting, unbreakable and invincible," actually comprised only a brief interlude in a long history of distrust and hostility between the two nations.

Lenin and Stalin showed disdain for Mao's peasant-based revolutionaries, and forced the Chinese Communist to ally with the stronger nationalists in the 1920s and 1930s, even when Chiang Kai-Shek's Nationalists were bent on their destruction.

The Soviets called the Chinese "radish Communists" — red on the outside but white on the inside.

Moscow continued to send arms to the Nationalists during the 1937-45 war against Japan, even though Chiang spent most of his energies fighting Mao's forces rather than the Japanese.

In the early 1950s, shortly after the Communist victory over the Nationalists in 1949, the Soviet Union provided China with loans and technical assistance for heavy industry and several thousand military advisers.

But relations rapidly deteriorated, in part because of personal antipathy between Mao and Stalin's successor, Khrushchev.

The turning point was Khrushchev's 1956 denunciation of Stalin. Mao thought Khrushchev was trying to usurp control of the Communist world and said his

efforts to ease tensions with the United States were undermining the unity of the Communist bloc. Khrushchev believed Mao's communemes and radical socialism were nonsense.

The Soviets, Mao once said, "utterly failed to understand Chinese society, the Chinese nation, or the Chinese revolution."

In 1959, Khrushchev rescinded on an offer to supply Beijing with a "sample" atomic bomb, and in the summer of 1960 the Kremlin stopped all aid to China, pulling out more than 1,000 technicians and effectively terminating more than 200 Soviet-backed industrial projects.

In 1962, aroused by Soviet propaganda, some 60,000 Muslim Kazakhs in the far western Chinese province of Xinjiang fled to the Soviet Union, while others staged uprisings against Chinese troops. That same year Moscow continued to supply advanced jets to India, which was then fighting a border war with China.

The two countries veered close, to all-out war in 1969, when fighting broke out along their disputed 8,000-kilometre border. China claimed huge tracts of land it said Czarist Russia had seized in "unequal treaties" of the 19th century.

Chinese leaders, partly to unify a nation then in the throes of the leftist cultural revolution, launched a nationwide campaign to store grain, dig air raid tunnels and move factories to the hinterlands in preparation for a Soviet invasion.

The invasion never came, but throughout the 1970s both sides maintained more than 1 million troops along the boundary. China's assertion that the Soviet "hegemonists" represented the biggest threat to peace was a key factor in the 1970s' resumption of relations with the United States.

Relations with Moscow began to improve only after Mao's death in 1976 and the emergence of the pragmatic Deng Xiaoping, who has proclaimed that there is no imminent threat of war and China must devote its energies to economic development, not arms.

Gandhi: 300 days of hard work ahead

By Hugh Paine
Reuters

NEW DELHI — India is around 300 days away from general elections, and counting.

After assembly elections in three states and the undignified exits of two senior figures — all in the space of two days — Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and his Congress (I) party have a lot of work to do.

Congress won overall majorities in the northeastern states of Nagaland and Mizoram in weekend elections. But these victories, announced on Tuesday, were cold comfort after a humiliating defeat in Tamil Nadu, where Congress came a distant third behind the regional DMK party.

Nagaland and Mizoram have a combined population of around two million. Tamil Nadu has 50 million people.

With disastrous timing, Arjun Singh, Congress chief minister of Madhya Pradesh state, was forced to step down on Sunday as an inquiry began into the running of a lottery in which members of his family were involved.

Only hours later, the governor and assembly speaker of Bihar state, also Congress nominees, quit after losing out in a highly

public power struggle with the state chief minister.

Gandhi won a huge majority at the 1984 general elections eight weeks after the assassination of his mother Indira.

The sympathy vote has long since evaporated and his record in by-elections and assembly polls in the past two years has been dismal.

In the latest fiasco, Gandhi made a dozen trips to Tamil Nadu, where he promised voters huge benefits and offended local feelings by disparaging his Tamil opponents and put his own prestige on the line in a highly personal campaign.

As national elections approach, Congress faces the dilemma that Gandhi is increasingly seen in the party as a vote-loser. But there is no credible alternative.

Most commentators believe Congress will lose many seats though few are convinced that the opposition can overturn its majority.

The best known opposition figure, Vishwanath Pratap Singh, "has not shown himself an effective or even a credible alternative to Rajiv Gandhi," said a diplomat.

The chief threat to party and prime minister, said one analyst, is that a sizeable body of Congress members of parliament, fac-

ing the prospect of losing their seats, might feel they had nothing to lose by defecting to the opposition or staging a party revolt against Gandhi.

To ensure his survival, commentators agreed that Gandhi's first priority in the remaining 300 days must be to reorganise and revitalise the party at state level.

"Not only in Tamil Nadu, the Congress has become a distant party, an inefficient organisation that is energised only at election times. It is showing all the symptoms of decay... general debility, lack of will and incapacity to get up and do something," said the independent Hindustan Times.

As corruption is likely to be a major election issue, Gandhi also needs to make more public examples of suspect leaders like Arjun Singh, said a Western diplomat. The question was whether he had the will or elbow-room to do so.

Despite his glossy international image, Gandhi is seen at home as weak and wishy-washy, said The Times of India.

Worse, he is believed to be in thrall to advisers who lack the courage to tell him the unpleasant truth that his personal brand of campaigning loses rather than gains votes.

Tower grilled over arms cuts

By Martin Walker

WASHINGTON — Mr. John Tower was such a good friend of the Reagan re-armament programme that when he announced his retirement as chairman of the Senate Defence Committee in 1983, the price of defence and aerospace shares dropped sharply.

Last week he faced his old colleagues on that committee to get their confirmation of his appointment as George Bush's new Defence Secretary. The committee hearings look like being the longest and most contentious for any of President Bush's cabinet appointees, although there is little doubt that in the end he will be confirmed as new head of the Pentagon, the man in charge of a \$300 billion annual budget.

Already bruised by the embarrassingly long three weeks it took for the FBI to complete its background checks into his colourful private life, Mr. Tower faces the problem of reining back defence spending, when he had spent his Senate career becoming the defence contractors' best friend.

Mr. Tower will be questioned most closely on his attitude to the Strategic Defence Initiative, or Star Wars, on which he is known

to be a sceptic, and on which of the many expensive weapons systems under development he sees as candidates for cuts.

The Pentagon and the defence industry are hoping that the required savings can come from delaying procurement, rather than actual cancellation of any programmes. But the decision on the future shape of the land-based strategic missile force, whether to stick with the vulnerable MX missiles, or spend another \$30 billion on developing a small and mobile single-warhead Minuteman missile will have to be taken soon.

After retiring from the Senate, Mr. Tower became a paid consultant to some of the biggest Pentagon contractors — to missile manufacturers such as Rockwell International, Martin Marietta, and LTV, as well as to British Aerospace.

Some of the tough questioning from his old Senate colleagues will focus on Mr. Tower's claim that he can remove himself from decisions involving these firms that used to pay him — which would mean backing away from about a third of the Pentagon procurement budget.

A passionate Anglophile who depends on Savile Row suits to drape his short and portly figure,

the new defence secretary smokes British cigarettes, reads British magazines, and is one of the Washington figures who best embodies what remains of the "special relationship."

Mr. Tower first lived in Britain during the early 1950s, researching working-class conservatism as a young political scientist.

Elected as the first Republican senator from Texas at only 35, after Senator Lyndon Johnson left to become vice-president in 1961, Tower built up a staff which has since become one of the most influential networks in Washington.

The FBI's attention focused on Mr. Tower's year in 1985-6 on the U.S. negotiating team with the Soviet Union in Geneva, when the Soviet negotiators tried to run a series of honey-trap operations to seduce members of the U.S. delegation. Mr. Tower was much relieved when the FBI concluded there was no national security problem in his private life.

The Democratic chairman of the Defence Committee, Senator Sam Nunn, and the senior Republican, Senator John Warner, have both been given the FBI report, but the matter is expected to be raised only in closed sessions of the hearings, which will continue into next week. —The Guardian.

Lawrence of Arabia revisited

A MOTORCYCLE accident on a quiet Dorset country road in 1953 ended the 47-year life of one of the most extraordinary figures of the century. The victim was T.E. Lawrence, whom the British call "Lawrence of Arabia", and who was born exactly 100 years ago. The centenary is being marked by a current exhibition in Oxford; then, on December 9, the National Portrait Gallery in London opened what it claims will be the most comprehensive exhibition ever on his life and achievements. The exhibition will continue until March 12, 1989.

Born in Tremadoc, North Wales, Lawrence spent most of his childhood in Oxford, then attended the university, obtaining a first-class degree in modern history in 1910.

After Oxford, Thomas Edward Lawrence began a career as an archaeologist, working on excavations in northern Syria. With the outbreak of World War I, his Middle East knowledge was put to use in British military intelligence in Cairo. In 1916 he was made liaison officer to Prince Feisal, son of the Sherif Hussein Ibn Ali, and for two years he played a significant role in advising and helping Arab revolt against the Turks.

After the war, he returned to Oxford with a research fellowship and began work on his monumental book on the desert war, "The Seven Pillars of Wisdom." In 1921, he was called in as a political adviser on Middle East affairs by the Colonial Office, but within a year became disillusioned by British policy, and left. Lawrence, himself, was a great supporter of the independence movements among his Arab friends and it was a source of great distress to him that promises, which he had been authorized to make, were not fulfilled. He joined the Royal Air Force



T.E. Lawrence by Augustus John

under the name "Ross," was discharged a year later when his identity was revealed, went into the Royal Tank Corps, then returned to the RAF in 1925 after changing his name to "Shaw." While a private soldier in the Tank Corps at Bovington Camp, Dorset, Lawrence rented Clouds Hill, a cottage near Wool, nine miles from Dorchester, as the needed somewhere to revise the text of "Seven Pillars." Later he bought it, carrying out improvements, and it became his home. He wrote: "Wild mares would not at present take me away from

Clouds Hill. It is an earthly paradise, and I am staying here until I feel qualified for it." Five days later came the fatal accident, as he was motorcycling from Bovington to his tiny cottage.

The cottage containing his furniture, photographs, and other relics, is now in the care of the National Trust: it is open to the public on Sunday afternoons in winter; and on Wednesday to Friday, and Sunday afternoons from April to September. The Greek phrase over the door was inscribed by Lawrence in 1924, and he freely translated it as

"Why Worry?" or "Nothing Matters."

Bovington Camp is today the Tank Museum, open all year, with 180 armoured fighting vehicles, of various nationalities, from 1915 onwards.

Dorset, which Lawrence got to know well, is the heart of Hardy country: he also knew Thomas Hardy (1840-1928), and often motorcycled from Clouds Hill to visit the writer in Dorchester ("Casterbridge" in the novels). On one occasion, he even persuaded a reluctant Mrs. Hardy to take a ride on the pillion! Hardy's birthplace, another small cottage in National Trust care, is three miles from the town; and Dorchester's County Museum has a re-creation of Hardy's study, with many personal items.

The town's statue of Hardy was the work of Eric Kennington — the artist who was also a friend of Lawrence, and illustrated "The Seven Pillars of Wisdom". Lawrence is buried in the parish churchyard at Moreton, near Clouds Hill; but it is in nearby Wareham, that you can see his superb memorial effigy — in Arab dress, clutching a dagger and with his head resting on a camel saddle — sculpted by Kennington from a three-ton piece of Portland stone.

Seven months after his death, a memorial service for Lawrence was held in St. Paul's Cathedral, London, when a bust — modelled from life by Kennington in 1926 — was unveiled. It is in the capital that the major centenary exhibition takes place.

It will look at all aspects of his life through a wealth of documentary material, and includes several important portraits — among them works by Augustus John, Kennington and William Rothenstein — which have never been displayed together. There will also be paintings connected with Lawrence's time in the Middle East; original illustrations for "Seven Pillars"; Lawrence's Arab robes; his own photographs, manuscripts and memorabilia — and one of his motorcycles — Welcome to Britain magazine.

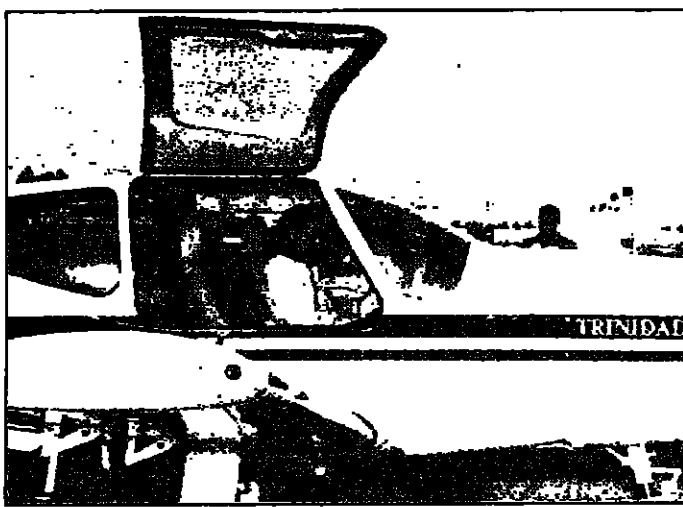


Alia Al Faisal takes first solo flight

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Al Faisal successfully completed her first solo flight on board a French-made Trinidad aircraft after only 14 hours of training.

Princess Alia received her training at the Royal Jordanian Air Academy under the supervision of an academy instructor and with the assistance of the Royal Air Squadron.

His Royal Highness Prince Faisal's encouragement was the primary incentive for Princess Alia's achievement. Himself a pilot at the Royal Jordanian Air Force, Prince Faisal won a number of flying prizes during his training in Britain.



Studies reveal lingering pesticides threat

(Continued from page 1)

industrial chemistry department said. The RSS, he said, is trying to coordinate with the Ministry of Health to carry out tests on chicken feed and production as well as imported and locally produced meat. A recent controversy broke out between the United States and European countries who had stopped importing meat from the U.S. for allegedly containing growth hormones in excess of accepted levels. The Americans denied the allegations and countered the European measure with slapping higher fees on European imports to the United States.

Similar concerns are being raised in Jordan by specialists as well as citizens, who are becoming wary of consuming foodstuffs they are not sure are clear of contaminants. The RSS organic technology division laboratory, open for all who want to have any product tested, receive samples for testing from all parts of the Kingdom, including border points and the customs department.

Alloush feels that not enough is

being done in the area of contamination monitoring and control, particularly for foods already imported and stored in the country.

"It is true that most of these foods are tested before they were allowed in. But how do we know what happened to these foods while they are in storage and whether they have expired or not?"

A survey in Jordan showed that cooking oil used to prepare falafel, when used several times, lose some specifications during the boiling process that could become dangerous for consumers. "The oil's colour becomes black, it emits smoke and shows a foam," Alloush said. Tests on animals have shown that consuming over-used cooking oil could result in liver diseases, he noted.

"We must have a more strict and tight control over such foods, whether imported or produced locally," Alloush told the Jordan Times.

He pointed out that some imported foods are not being tested in Jordan at all, such as medicinal plants that have active ingredients and cosmetics which may contain heavy metals.

"The risk that food may be contaminated by a wide variety of chemicals introduced into the environment, intentionally or inadvertently by man, due to the industrialization of contemporary societies, is becoming high," Alloush said in a presentation at a regional conference on development, the environment and health held in Amman last month. "Environmental contaminants... create a serious health hazard, due to their relatively widespread use. In some cases, a long biological half-life persistence in the environment increases the residue level in food, and the health hazard for humans and food producing animals."

Environmental contaminants are formed and infiltrate the food supply by different routes, including material emitted into the atmosphere due to combustion, and other industrial processes. They also result from materials used in food packaging, production and preparation, such as monomers, plasticizers, solvents, and disinfectants.

Residues of chemicals used to increase and protect agricultural production such as pesticides and animal feed additives and veterinary drugs. The RSS study recommends several measures to prevent the infiltration of contaminants to the food supply, and to reduce their levels in the long run.

These measures include collecting and exchanging data on the levels of contaminants among the various concerned institutions; giving priorities in monitoring to foodstuffs with the greatest potential of creating adverse health effects and strict control to reduce or ban contaminants with the highest health hazards.

Other measures include surveys and toxicological studies of food contaminants, including clinical observations in humans and experiments of veterinary products as well as cooperation and exchanging information with international institutions concerned with food contaminants.

Jackson seeks to heal rift with Jews

The rift between American blacks and Jews widened during the November election. The healing process has been erratic and slow.

By Masood Haider

NEW YORK — Relations between American blacks and Jews were a casualty of the November presidential election and they are taking a long time to heal. Mutual suspicion and the unwillingness of either side to give ground remain the main obstacles to a "reconciliation."

The relations reached an all-time low when, during the candidacy of Reverend Jesse Jackson for the Democratic party nomination, the Democratic mayor of New York City, Edward Koch, said, "It would be crazy for any Jew to vote for Jesse." The remark was especially damaging for Jackson as it coincided with the New York primaries.

Given the record of Rev. Jackson, who is known to support Palestinian self-determination and the position of Arab Americans on the Middle East, the Jews in America look upon the former presidential candidate as a less than desirable element in the Democratic party, which they have traditionally supported.

The doubts were there before the campaign gained momentum. These were further reinforced by divisions within the Democratic

party, and the election rhetoric from the rival camp of Michael Dukakis. The remarks by Koch contributed to the reverend's troubles, but the mayor was not alone in complicating matters.

During the election campaign in Chicago, an aide to Chicago's acting Mayor Eugene Sawyer made some anti-Jewish remarks and the Rev. Jackson was not quick enough to condemn him. The aide, Steve Cokely, who was later dismissed because of the remarks, said amongst other things that Jewish doctors were injecting blacks with the AIDS virus.

Most politicians seem willing to put that period of fantastic claims and counter-claims and the bitter, often merciless, invective behind them. But many do not know how.

Jesse Jackson, who was particularly indignant at Edward Koch, who came to power with many black votes, has been in the forefront of those seeking amends. After the nomination of Dukakis as the Democratic party's presidential candidate, the governor of New York City sat down with both Jesse Jackson and Edward Koch and succeeded in burying the hatchet for the

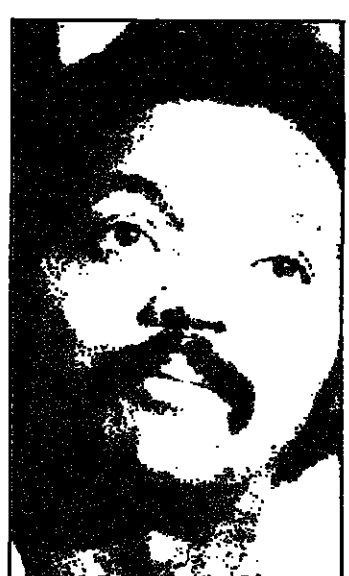
election period.

Jackson also met with Jewish leaders in Washington to bridge the rift and succeeded to some extent in allaying the fears of Jewish elders over his stand on Palestinian self-determination and Arab-Israeli issues.

However, the damage done to Jewish-black relations in Chicago could not be healed and relations worsened. On November 26, worshippers at Congregation Hakafa in Winnetka (Chicago) came to hear Jesse Jackson. It had been billed as a "message of healing," one in a series of nearly a dozen pulp exchanges between black and Jewish religious leaders.

Some of those in the congregation — where there was standing room only — said they had been drawn by Jackson's celebrity status but continued to have doubts about his sincerity. Heads in the room nodded when Jackson, delivering the evening's sermon, said: "The sons and the daughters of the Holocaust and the sons and daughters of slavery must find common ground again." How far has Jackson's effort removed Jewish anxieties about his politics remains unclear however.

In the months since the Cokely incident, relations between the two groups in Chicago in particular appear to have followed a



Jesse Jackson

more settled course. The Anti-defamation League of B'nai B'rith, for example, which closely monitors such matters, reports that there have been no serious incidents that it would see as anti-Semitism of the black community.

Some argue that the reduction in inflammatory rhetoric reflects the growing public attention paid to the problem by civic and religious organizations. There remains a high degree of wariness

among Jewish groups about how deeply anti-Semitic attitudes run among blacks in a city where race and politics are components of virtually every debate.

"We still don't know whether the black political leadership will stand up to anti-Semitism next time," said a Jewish leader. Among the blacks, too, there is an undercurrent of resentment about the preoccupation which Jewish organizations and voters display over the question of black anti-Semitism.

The doubts held by the Jews in Chicago may be magnified because the city is also a base of Rev. Louis Farrakhan, the black nationalist leader who has referred to Judaism as a "gutter religion."

Chicago is also a base for the Reverend Jesse Jackson, who remains a disquieting figure for many in the Jewish community who says they have difficulty forgetting Jackson's past association with Farrakhan and his views on the Arab-Israeli issues.

But Jackson has time and again shown a willingness to talk and heal — a fact that is universally seen as a good omen. How successful his initiative will be in bridging the gap between blacks and Jews may depend as much on the reciprocity of his doubters as on what American politics throw up next — Academic File.

15 Palestinians wounded

(Continued from page 1)

whereas the right-wing Likud bloc and leaders of the mainstream Labour Party have rejected the PLO.

Rabin came under sharp criticism from Likud legislators Monday for authorising a meeting between pro-PLO leader Faisal Husseini, who has been jailed for most of the uprising, and Rabin's top adviser on the occupied territories, Shmuel Goren.

"I think Husseini is not an appropriate route (for talks). I think if he were, the defence minister wouldn't have had him sitting in jail for his part in the violence," said Likud legislator Binyamin Begin, son of former Prime Minister Menachem Begin.

Husseini said after the meeting he believed the PLO would support elections in the occupied territories, but said the balloting would have to be on the question of statehood and not for local representatives as suggested by Israeli leaders.

Dovish Israeli parliamentarians and academics were to leave Monday to meet PLO representatives despite an Israeli government ban on such contacts. Parliamentarian Ran Cohen of

the Citizens' Rights Movement said the talks in The Hague, close in the heels of a January meeting between Israelis and PLO members in Paris, were essential to bring peace.

"They (the PLO) must understand that in Israel there is a large sector in favour of peace. Israelis must make peace for the government of Israel," he said on Israel Radio.

Other Israeli participants expected at The Hague conference include Labour Party legislators Abban Eban and Haim Zadok and academics Galia Golan and Meir Pail.

The radio said PLO officials would include Khaled Al Hassan and Bassam Abu Sharif. The spiritual leader of the Islamic Resistance Movement in the Gaza Strip, Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, gave surprise support to the idea of elections in the occupied territories in an interview with Israel television Monday.

"If there is international supervision of elections, there will be more freedom for citizens and this is the right way. There is no other way to elect representatives of the Palestinian people. This is the only way," he said. Yassin also spoke in favour of a dialogue with Israel.

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Bush prepares new budget

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bush, hemmed in by campaign promises and a Democrat-controlled Congress, this week begins shaping his plans to slash the huge U.S. budget deficit run up by the Reagan administration.

Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady may say more about ideas for trimming the shortfall, which is running at more than \$150 billion, in congressional testimony Tuesday. Bush delivers his own budget proposals to Congress Feb. 9.

The budget Reagan sent Congress before leaving office Jan. 20 anticipates an additional \$85 billion in revenue next year, with \$35 billion of it going to cut the budget deficit and \$50 billion going to increases in federal spending.

Reagan's budget said the \$35 billion would cut the budget deficit below the \$100 billion permitted this year by the 1985 Gramm-Rudman-Hollings law

which is intended to phase out the federal deficit in stages by the 1991 tax year.

In his inaugural address, Bush, 64, who is haunted by his 1988 campaign pledge of "read my lips, no new taxes", recalled that "when our mothers were young... the Congress and the executive were capable of working together to produce a budget on which this nation could live."

"Let us negotiate soon and hard. But, in the end, let us produce. The American people await action. They didn't send us here to bicker. They asked us to rise above the merely partisan," he said.

One trial balloon idea that has already sparked an early con-

frontation in Bush's honeymoon with Congress would, according to Brady, impose a fee of about 25 cents for every \$100 on federally insured savings and bank deposits.

The new administration must decide how to raise an estimated \$50 billion to \$100 billion needed to close or merge savings institutions that have made loans beyond their means.

Other options for dealing with the crisis in U.S. savings institutions include issuing bonds or using taxpayers' money to bail out the bankrupt banks.

Bush chief of staff John Sununu said testily in a television interview Sunday the fee on savings was only one idea and should not have created a firestorm among legislators.

"The most disappointing part of the whole thing is that the effort that was being made to get to the Congress early enough to let them be a part of crafting alternatives resulted in a firestorm on one alternative that was not necessarily the leading candidate," he said.

But the idea was still alive, said Sununu, and would be only an adjustment on fees that banks and savings institutions have paid

for federal insurance since it began 50 years ago.

Federal corporations insure most U.S. savings and bank deposits up to \$100,000 each.

Senator Lloyd Bentsen, a Texas Democrat, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee and George Dukakis's vice-presidential running mate against Bush last year, called the fee plan "very foolish at a time when we're trying to encourage savings..."

He told a television interviewer that calling the revenue plan a user fee instead of a tax was "a matter of semantics."

The option Bush chooses for dealing with failing savings and loan institutions is expected to be only part of his plan to Congress on Feb. 9.

A White House official said Bush's budget plan "won't be that different" from former president Reagan's \$1.15 trillion budget proposal earlier this month for cutting the deficit without raising taxes.

"Education, child care, environmental priorities will be different," he said, indicating Bush will carry out campaign promises to give those programs more emphasis.

Comecon struggles to achieve targets

MOSCOW (R) — Forty years after the foundation of the Soviet-trading bloc Comecon, crossing the border between its member countries is still a painfully slow business.

Forget the thinly-manned customs posts and green "nothing to declare" channels found at the borders between member countries of its Western counterpart, the European Community.

Visitors to the Soviet Union from its East European allies instead face long queues coming into the country as customs men painstakingly check the contents of suitcases, trucks and cars.

And, starting Feb. 1, they will also be prohibited from taking many consumer goods from caviar to televisions back out with them as Moscow responds to similar curbs introduced by Poland, Bulgaria, East Germany and Czechoslovakia.

The move, taken in response to chronic domestic shortages of consumer goods, appears at odds with speeches by leaders of the group, formally known as the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA), emphasising continuing economic integration.

In an article in the Soviet communist party daily Pravda this month marking Comecon's 40th anniversary, Soviet CMEA representative Nikolai Talyzin spoke of "changing the very model of economic relationships" between members.

But such tit-for-tat curbs also symbolise the difficulties of creating a unified market out of 10 centrally-planned economies whose leaders are increasingly divided over the speed and extent to which they should introduce market-based reforms.

"Comecon is not really a multi-lateral trade organisation in any operational sense, like the European Community," said one Western expert here. "It is just a

system of bilateral ties aimed at coordinating plans and keeping the books."

"They clearly want to reform but if you listen to the speeches, they are basically saying the same as two or three years ago. It is going to be a very slow and difficult process," he noted.

The problems came into the open at a meeting in July in Prague when Romania refused to go along with a bold-sounding plan agreed by its partners to create an integrated market within the alliance as part of an overhaul of Comecon.

The plan called only for a gradual transition and gave no time frame, but Romania opposed it on grounds that putting things onto a more market-oriented basis would make it abandon the rigid central-planning at home to which it stuck for decades.

East Germany, the Soviet Union's largest trading partner and the bloc's strongest economy, gave formal backing, but diplomats said it also had reservations for the same reasons.

Ranged against them are the other European members, led by Hungary, which is at the forefront of Eastern Europe's reform movement and also, to an increasing extent, the Soviet Union.

Foreign analysts say Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia and Poland are somewhere in between, with the non-Europeans — Vietnam, Cuba and Mongolia — basically following Moscow's line.

"For the time being we do not even see in the long term how Comecon could be reformed," Hungarian Politburo member Rezső Nyers said in a Hungarian newspaper interview this month. "Anti-reform forces are affecting events in some member countries."

And, in unusually frank criticism of allies, Nyers named them: "The GDR (East Germany) and Romania refuse reforms even politically," he said. "Czechoslovakia's position is uncertain."

Peter Szonyi, a deputy Hungarian minister in charge of economic cooperation, called creation of a unified socialist market in the current circumstances "a pipe dream."

Calls of reform are prompted not just by political considerations but also by the sharp fall in the bloc's share of world trade. Few Comecon manufactured goods are competitive on global markets and the countries need Western technology.

But reform is slowed by the consensus-based principles on which the organisation works.

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ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

'Syria to raise oil exports this year'

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Syria plans to increase oil exports from 80,000 barrels a day in 1988 to around 130,000-140,000 barrels a day this year, a newsletter reported Monday. The Middle East Economic Survey said the exports will be made possible by an increase in Syria's production from 270,000 barrels a day in 1988 to 350,000 barrels a day in 1989. The increase will come from the startup "during the next few weeks" of the Omar field in northeast Syria with a capacity of about 100,000 barrels a day, the newsletter reported. The new field is operated by the Al Firat Petroleum Co. owned 50 per cent by the state-owned Syrian Petroleum Co. and by U.S. Shell's Pecten subsidiary (15.625 per cent). Royal Dutch Shell (15.625 per cent), and Deminex (18.75 per cent). Royal Dutch Shell is the operator. The respected oil publication said exports from the new field would start in February or March mixed with crude oil from another producing field. In addition to its own production, Syria receives for its armed forces 20,000 barrels a day of free oil from Iran.

Riyadh lifts ban on Filipino workers

RIYADH (R) — Saudi Arabia has lifted a five-month freeze on work permits for Filipinos, labour sources said Sunday. They said the lifting of the freeze followed a visit by Philippines Labour Minister Franklin Drilon to Riyadh in December for talks on ending the dispute. Manila banned overseas employment of Filipina maids from March last year to prevent their abuse by foreign employers. Riyadh responded last August by refusing to issue work visas for any class of Filipino workers. Manila lifted its ban in October. About 300,000 Filipinos work in Saudi Arabia in technical, clerical and other fields. Foreign workers represent more than 30 per cent of the kingdom's 10 million population.

Egypt, Nigeria ask for debt write offs

CAIRO (R) — Presidents Hosni Mubarak of Egypt and Ibrahim Babangida of Nigeria urged world creditors Monday to reschedule part of Africa's debts and write off the rest. "The two leaders agreed it is necessary to reach an arrangement with creditors on scrapping part of the debts and rescheduling the rest to help African countries proceed with their development projects," presidential aide Osama Al Baza told reporters after a meeting between the presidents. "This is necessary not only for the poor but for all African countries," he said. Egypt's foreign debt is \$43 billion and Nigeria's is \$26 billion.

Oman ready to reduce oil exports

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — Omani Oil Minister Said Al Shanfari was quoted Monday as saying his country was ready to reduce its oil exports within a pact for similar cuts by other oil producers outside the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). The minister's pledge was made in a statement to his country's Arabic-language daily Oman and broadcast by Muscat radio, monitored in Bahrain. "Oman is ready to reduce its exports within the framework of a general agreement for oil producers outside OPEC," Shanfari was quoted as saying.

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Economist criticises Kremlin reforms

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union's current economic reform programme is based on false premises and will generate inflation and lower standards of living, a Soviet economist wrote Sunday.

Economist L. Piyasheva, in an article in the daily *Sotsialisticheskaya Industriya*, predicted Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's "perestroika" reforms would fail to provide more consumer goods for Soviet families.

Piyasheva also warned against tendencies to resolve the country's problems through foreign borrowing and called for cuts in defence spending and subsidies on food and social services.

Gorbachev's recent speeches have called for concerted efforts in promoting economic self-management to make up for poor

industrial performance and chronic shortages of even basic foods and consumer goods.

He has also called for defence cuts and reduced subsidies to plug a budget deficit estimated to stand at 100 billion roubles (\$161 billion).

Piyasheva said plans to make enterprises self-financing by this year had virtually collapsed because the lack of a free market meant industry was unable to obtain materials other than from the state planning authorities.

Industry, she said, was instead resorting to its old tactic of trying to lower targets set out by planning authorities.

"Obviously, one cannot expect to have growth in consumer goods from such a reform full of

half-measures," she said.

No growth in productivity and continuous increases in workers' nominal incomes made inflation inevitable, she said. Increasing borrowing abroad would only compound the problem.

"There is therefore every reason to believe that in this year's plan there is a vicious inflationary strategy," she said.

"The original concept of reforms, dragging behind them adopted laws that are not working, involves a whole series of deliberate decisions promoting inflation. We must therefore adopt clear final goals and the means to achieve them," she stressed.

Piyasheva said it was vital to eliminate the constraints of centralised planning to ensure the

country's social welfare.

"Otherwise, we will be getting well-being on credit," she said. "That is, construction of new schools and medical institutions will be carried out on the basis of printed money and the devaluation of our incomes."

She called for strict cuts in food subsidies paid out since the 1920s as well as cuts in what she said was almost certainly an understated defence budget.

Piyasheva also echoed longstanding calls for publication of full details of both military spending and the costs of running the state and Communist Party bureaucracy.

"Here is the very area where we can find reserves to cut the budget deficit," she said.

European car firms see higher competition

LONDON (R) — A Toyota motor corp plant making cars in Britain would sharply increase competition in Europe and add to overcapacity in the industry, European car firms told Reuters.

West Germany's Volkswagen A.G., commenting on Toyota's announcement that it was considering a £600 million (\$1 billion) car plant in Britain, said: "It would be further proof that competition on the European car market will take on a new dimension."

A spokesman for Vauxhall Motors Ltd, the British car making arm of General Motors Corp. (G.M.), said Japanese involvement in Europe was likely to increase after 1992, when trade barriers are due to come down in the European Community (EC).

whether in the form of imports or Japanese car firms having European manufacturing.

"All of our strategy, moving towards 1992 in particular, recognises that there would be in any case an increasingly competitive climate," he said.

Some of the European groups called for reciprocity, or better access to the Japanese market.

Foreign companies sold only 560,000 vehicles in Japan in the last decade while 8.2 million Japanese cars were exported to the EC, an EC spokesman said in November last year.

Toyota President Shoichiro Toyoda said Friday the plant was expected to produce 200,000 cars a year with 1,800cc engines. At least 60 per cent of parts

would be bought in Europe initially, rising to 80 per cent.

In Paris, a Peugeot spokesman said the group wanted to see 80 per cent EC content.

Peugeot Chairman Jacques Calvet, in a recent interview with a Japanese television station, said: "The implantation of Japanese factories in Europe is going to increase the production overcapacity which we already have."

In Turin, a Fiat SPA spokesman said: "Japanese manufacturers are acceptable as free competitors in Europe, providing that the cars built here have 80 per cent local content."

He said U.S. groups with European subsidiaries were able to

operate without distorting the market.

"Providing they (the Japanese) behave like Ford Motor Co. or G.M., working through local subsidiaries, there should be no problem," the Fiat spokesman said.

A spokesman for Ford of Britain said: "I don't think we are going to start thinking about this new move as a particular threat." Industry analysts estimate the European market, the biggest in the world, enjoyed a boom last year, with new car registrations totalling just under 15 million.

Fiat and V.W. led with new registrations of about 1.9 million each. But the market is expected to fall between three and five per cent in 1989.

Texaco, Icahn resolve financial dispute

WHITE PLAINS, New York (R) — Texaco has settled its long-running feud with Carl Icahn and announced it will make a \$1.9 billion special payout to shareholders, exceeding Wall Street's expectations.

The third largest U.S. oil company said Sunday it entered into a "standstill" agreement with financier Icahn, holder of a 16.6 per cent Texaco stake, preventing him from buying more shares and settling all outstanding litigation.

"We made peace," Icahn said in a telephone interview. "We dealt with problems that were hurdles in the way of having a smoother and steadier approach," Texaco Chairman Alfred Deane said in an interview.

"Now we should have that stability and I think that is recognised by Carl," he noted. Texaco, whose announcement caps a year-long \$7 billion asset sale programme, also said it would devote \$500 million to buyback its own shares before

August 1990, subject to market conditions.

The \$1.9 billion distribution amounts to \$8 a share, consisting of notes, preferred stock and \$3 per share in cash. The payment will be made after approval by shareholders at the May annual meeting.

"The programme is going to be well-received on Wall Street but there will be some disappointment that Texaco is no longer in (takeover) play," said analyst Richard Pzena of Sanford C. Bernstein and Co.

Icahn had said he might wage a proxy battle for Texaco board seats at the 1989 annual meeting. Last year, he put forward five nominees to the 14-member board but was defeated in a bitter proxy battle.

Texaco will realise about \$7 billion from various asset sales, which culminated Jan. 20 with the announcement that Imperial Oil, which is controlled by Exxon, would acquire Texaco's 78 per cent stake in Texaco Canada for

\$3.24 billion in cash.

Icahn intend to send them candy and flowers every once in a while, but seriously I think the price they got for Texaco Canada was excellent. Basically Texaco's top management has done a lot to change the image of the company," Icahn said.

Last year Texaco also arranged the \$1.2 billion sale of Deutsche Texaco and set up a joint refining and marketing venture with Saudi Arabia that it valued at \$1.8 billion.

Texaco had said last year it would distribute \$1.7 billion to shareholders in proceeds from

the sales, but Sunday's amount far exceeds that level.

Texaco said the remaining proceeds from asset sales and restructuring would be used to reduce debt and for additional investments.

Analyst George Friesen of Dean Witter Reynolds said Icahn would not have agreed to the dividend if he did not think the stock would rise.

Icahn, who will gain about \$328 million from the payout, had put a \$60 target on Texaco's stock. Texaco, which has about 244 million shares outstanding, closed Friday at \$54.50.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Monday, Jan. 30, 1989
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell		Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	491.0	493.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	378.3	380.3
Pound Sterling	862.8	866.5	Dutch guilder	132.8	134.0
Deutschemark	262.8	264.1	Swedish crown	77.4	77.8
Swiss franc	309.0	310.5	Italian lira (for 100)	35.9	36.1
French franc	77.3	77.7	Belgian franc (for 10)	125.6	126.2

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One Sterling	1.7555/65	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.1840/50	Canadian dollar
	1.8673/80	Deutschemark
	2.1075/85	Dutch guilders
	1.5863/73	Swiss francs
	39.08/12	Belgian francs
	6.3450/500	French francs
	1363/1364	Italian lire
	129.85/95	Japanese yen
	6.3350/400	Swedish crowns
	6.7370/420	Norwegian crowns
	7.2480/530	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	393.85/394.25	U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Market holiday.

TOKYO — Share prices closed lower in thin trade, after last week's strong gains and a sharp weakening of the yen against the dollar prompted investors to take profits or sit on the sidelines. The Nikkei Index fell 111.57 points, or 0.35 per cent to close at 31,567.50.

HONG KONG — Hong Kong stocks soared through a technical resistance point at the start of trade and closed at new post-crash records for market indices and turnover. The Hang Seng Index rose 79.50 to close at 3,036.45. Turnover was HK \$2.93 billion.

SINGAPORE — Share prices surged over a broad front in hectic trading and this pushed the Straits Times Industrial Index up 19.33 points to a five-month high of 1,134.81.

BOMBAY — Share prices resumed their upswing after weekend holidays on renewed speculative and institutional buying. In trucks and cars, Telco rallied 28.75 rupees to 781.25.

FRANKFURT — German shares fell sharply as foreign investors in particular sold heavily after the ruling centre-right coalition lost West Berlin local elections. The 30-share DAX Index closed 15.21 points lower at 1,328.37.

ZURICH — Swiss shares closed barely steady on interest rate worries and a lack of buying interest. The All-Share Swiss Performance Index fell 1.7 points to 970.9.

PARIS — French share prices ended lower in quiet business. The 50-share price indicator ended 0.58 per cent down.

LONDON — Market makers pushed prices down after an early rise run out of steam. The F.T. 100 share index closed at 2052, up 46.1 but 30 below the mid-session peak.

NEW YORK — Wall Street stocks were mixed and blue chips, the centre of last week's rally, twice gave up early gains. The Dow Jones industrial average fell one to 2322.

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European soccer round-up

Crowd violence mars Spanish, Dutch matches

MADRID (R) — Real Madrid are prepared to sacrifice two points rather than replay Saturday's abandoned game against Osasuna unless security is guaranteed, club president Ramon Mendoza has said.

The match in Pamplona was called off two minutes before halftime after the crowd pelted Real Madrid goalkeeper Francisco Bufo with firecrackers, fruit and metal objects.

Real were not the only famous club in trouble over the weekend. In the Netherlands, police arrested 37 fans before Sunday's match between European champion PSV Eindhoven and Feyenoord.

In Italy, fighting broke out after the game between Atalanta and leaders Inter Milan.

Police arrested eight people and one Atalanta fan was taken to hospital after being stabbed in the chest with a screwdriver.

"Real Madrid will not play again in Pamplona unless our security is guaranteed," Mendoza said. "I would rather start the league with two points less than play in these conditions."

Osasuna president Fermin Escarri said: "It was the saddest evening in my life and I apologise to Real Madrid."

But Osasuna coach Pedro Zabala said Bufo could have held out for longer and accused him of showing the referee an iron bar although what hit him was an orange.

The Spanish soccer federation will decide Tuesday on sanctions. Real, losing 1-0 at the time, want

the game replayed on neutral ground.

Bufo was recently suspended for hitting an Atletico Madrid player, but the hostility could be put down to the traditional dislike of Basques for Madrid and central government.

Barcelona closed to within a point of Real with a 2-2 draw at neighbours Espanol.

Third-placed Atletico Madrid, with a 2-0 home win over Logrones, edged closer to the big two but still trail Real by eight points.

The arrests in Eindhoven followed brawls overnight in the city centre between rival fans.

Eindhoven won the argument on the pitch 1-0 thanks to a late goal by Brazilian striker Romario and kept their three-point lead over Ajax at the top.

With nine goals in nine league matches, Romario has become an indispensable asset to injury-hit PSV.

In Italy, the return of captain Diego Maradona spurred Napoli to a 4-1 victory over Ascoli after three weeks without a win. In midweek Ascoli had beaten Napoli 3-1 in a cup match.

"Napoli had Maradona," said manager Eugenio Bersellini, explaining the turnaround.

In the unpleasantness at Atalanta, the underdogs were delighted to hold the leaders 1-1.

Inter's manager Giovanni Trapattoni was full of respect for the newly promoted Bergamo side, who lie fourth in the table.

"We were up against one of the strongest teams in the league. We gained a point, we certainly didn't lose one," he said.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Mey skates to double win

MIOLA DI PINE, Italy (AP) — Uwe Jens Mey of East Germany won both the 500 and the 1,000-metre World Cup speed skating races Sunday and strengthened his lead in the overall cup standings. Mey, who leads the overall standings with 192 points, won the 500-metre race with a rink-record time of 36.99. Dan Jansen of the United States, who won at the same distance Saturday, finished second with a time of 37.71. South Korean Ki Tae Bae, second in overall standings with 163 points, finished third at 37.94.

Brothers win U.S. Nordic ski championships

LAKE PLACID, New York (AP) — The Holland brothers from Norwich, Vermont, Olympic ski jumper Mike and Olympic Nordic combined skier Joe, breezed to national championships Sunday while qualifying to compete in the Nordic world championships. Mike Holland, 27, made it a clean sweep as he won the 90-metre jumping title Sunday, one day after capturing the 90-metre crown on the Olympic hill. He had jumps of 86.5 and 84 metres for 219.2 points in bright sunshine and 1-degree Celsius temperature. Earlier in the day, Joe Holland won his second consecutive Nordic combined championship. He had been the leader Saturday in 70-metre jumping and, under the handicap system used for Sunday's 15-kilometre cross-country race, he only had to finish first, which he did with ease.

Liverpool advance with win over Millwall

LONDON (R) — Striking partners John Aldridge and Ian Rush grabbed a goal apiece as Liverpool beat Millwall 2-0 Sunday to advance comfortably from the fourth round of the English F.A. Cup. Aldridge and Rush struck six minutes apart early in the second half to guide the cup favourites through a dull televised tie and into the last 16. Liverpool strung five players across the back to counter an expected aerial bombardment from their high-flying first division rivals. But the tactic served only to reduce the match to a dull, long-ball struggle of little incident. Aldridge broke the deadlock 13 minutes into the second half when he headed home a cleverly worked corner from John Barnes at the near post.

Kenyan soccer team upset by Zambians

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Zambia's Nchanga Rangers beat Kenya Breweries 2-0 Sunday, upsetting the soccer club which last year was champion of East and Central Africa. Zambia Rangers' Simon Mwanza scored the first goal 44 minutes into the match against Kenya Breweries played in the Indian Ocean port city of Mombasa. Peter Bala hit the second goal in the 80th minute. Meanwhile, Zanzibar's small Simba and Sudan's El Hilal played a scoreless match at the Nyayo national stadium in this capital city.

Scotland call up Rambo

GLASGOW, Scotland (AP) — Scotland manager Andy Roxburgh Monday called up muscular Aston Villa striker Alan McNally, nicknamed "Rambo" by his fans, for the World Cup qualifying match against Cyprus in Limassol on Feb. 8. McNally, scorer of 21 goals this season, was named in a Scottish squad of 20 and is poised to make his senior international debut. "This is an appropriate game to bring in McNally," said Roxburgh. "He has a tremendous physical presence and lives up to his nickname."

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, JANUARY 31, 1989

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

— As Charted By The Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES:

Organizational meetings will have success. Current influences are invigorating for financial and business matters. Luck will move along better with a gentle push. ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Contacts from the past could lead to new adventure and romance. Make long range plans for travel and recreation.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Your usual sense of practicality may not be functioning up to par today. Get all the facts and stay objective with important decisions.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Off the wall comments which are abrasive tend to develop enemies rather than allies. A friendly approach will bring results.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Be prepared to redo what has already been done. A second look at options available will give you the answer.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Someone you meet can give you new information that will solve a problem. You have excellent ideas for getting ahead.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 23) Concentrate on what has been going right. Rely on yourself and avoid

those who are unreliable and careless.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Disregarding the cost of social activities can bring a month-end financial frenzy. Make new rules to correct your situation.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) With budgets under control, this is a favorable time to spend money for improvements. Good news can cause you to increase your efforts.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) A secret meeting this evening can bring a surprise. There is a tendency to let expectations of what others are supposed to do to make you happy get unrealistic.

CAPIRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Take what you overhear with a grain of salt. Avoid involving yourself in gossip that has negative strings attached.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Spending and credit binges will influence future plans. Hold the line on finances now to produce cash for future necessities.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Prepare to ignore mindless criticism that has its roots in jealousy. Stay with responsible responses until things blow over.

Schneider falters then triumphs

BEAVER CREEK, Colorado (AP) — Vreni Schneider keeps making just enough mistakes to show she can be beaten. Then she does something to show that the beating won't come today.

Schneider, unbeaten in 10 world cup gate races this season, was in real jeopardy after strolling in 1.17 seconds behind American Tamara McKinney in the first run of Sunday's women's combined slalom, the opening event of the World Alpine ski championships.

One second is a virtual lifetime in ski racing, especially when the advantage is given to someone like McKinney, twice a world cup slalom champion.

So in the second run, Schneider simply blew away her competition, beating McKinney by 1.29 seconds to win in 1 minute, 18.58 seconds. McKinney, whose 41:39 was second-best in the afternoon, had an aggregate of 1:18.70, .84 seconds ahead of third-place Mateja Svet of Yugoslavia.

"I didn't do anything special on the second run," Schneider said. "I didn't have the impression I skied badly because I skied my best on the first run, although I had a problem with one of my poles at the start and again later on. But it just turned out I was fast on my second run as has been usual for me this season."

The victory didn't earn Schneider a medal, but it did give her a ski up on her competition heading into a downhill race Thursday, second part of this hybrid event. Schneider, acknowledged as the best slalom and giant slalom skier in the world, is merely competent in downhill.

McKinney, like Schneider, makes only occasional starts in downhill, so the two appear about evenly matched. That's why the .12 second advantage gained in the slalom is a great boost for Schneider's hopes of winning a gold.

If Schneider saw no real faults in her first run, the Swiss technical coach, Paul-Henri Franczy, saw plenty.

"The first run she was sleeping," he said. "She's never skied so badly. She wasn't concentrating. I told her to be aggressive on the second run, that she had nothing to lose."

The first run was fairly straight, allowing skiers to build up speed as they came down the mountain. It was a course that favoured McKinney, long noted for a soft touch in slalom.

The second course, McKinney noted, "turned quite a bit across the fall line. I had some problems up on the steep portions."

That's where McKinney lost time and where Schneider made it up in bunches with powerful turns and thrusts.

"Sometimes it looks easy, but it's really a lot harder than it looks," said Schneider, who won Olympic gold medals in slalom and giant slalom last year.

Soviet-U.S. yachting

SYDNEY (R) — A vastly expensive Soviet yacht carrying an American sponsor's name and flying American sails.

It sounds like glasnost gone mad but thanks to Dennis Conner — the All-American boy who brought home the America's cup — the day may not be far off.

Conner is backing the Soviet Union's tilt at yachting's greatest prizes.

The skipper of Stars and Stripes is helping the Poti Yacht Club on the shores of the Black Sea in its preparations for this year's round the world race and the next America's cup in 1991.

He also expects Soviet participation in the world 12-metre championship in Fremantle in October.

Conner, who beat Australia's Ian Murray to reclaim the America's cup in 1987, is in Australia for the \$340,000 promotional rematch. On Sunday he lost all

chance of victory when he ran aground off Shark Island.

Last month he spent a week in the Soviet Union as guest of the Poti Yacht Club.

The Soviets need three million dollars' sponsorship to allow them to compete at the top level and Conner has a sports marketing company which seeks out sponsors.

"They won't win yet but their participation can only help," Conner said.

"I am trying to attract sponsors for the boat primarily from L.A. though I have one large American company that is going to help."

Conner said the Soviet yacht Golden Fleece, crewed by 11 Olympic yachtsmen, would bear its American sponsor's name and fly hi-tech American-made sails on an American-made mast for the round the world race starting in September.

Poti is also one of four Soviet clubs to have lodged provisional challenges for the America's cup. Twelve-metre yachts, used in cup competition since the early 1950s, have been made obsolete for the next defence with challengers agreeing to use a longer, faster design.

Conner laments the passing of the graceful yachts which he sailed in every America's cup from 1973 until the bizarre but successful catamaran defence against New Zealand in September last year.

"The biggest concern is that they have made the boat about four times as expensive as a 12-metre," Conner said of the new international America's cup class.

"I am concerned that at some point the costs of the boats will start inhibiting the number of the competitors and when that starts it is not good for the sport."

New grip 'to transform tennis'

MASSACHUSETTS (AP) — A professor who reluctantly tested a tennis racket with a six-sided handle rather than the traditional eight said he knew it was extraordinary when he hit perfect backhands on the first few tries.

"My opponent was frozen in his tracks," said Dr. Frank Katch, chairman of the Exercise Science Department at the University of Massachusetts.

For the last two months, Katch and a colleague in the biomechanics laboratory have tested the racket designed by a Cincinnati actuary who couldn't get the hang of the game.

"I figured I had to be holding the racket wrong," inventor Andrew Brown said Thursday. "By scrutinizing the racket through high-speed cameras and a computer that traced reflexive markers on players' wrists, Katch said he verified Brown's claim that shifting the handle angle slightly and making it hexagonal rather than octagonal does wonders for shots."

"The new grip puts the hand in a very strong anatomical position

and a player should have more control," Katch said.

The next step, he said, is testing it in the courts next spring against traditional rackets.

Katch said he began the experiment with reservations. Brown had dropped off his invention last fall and Dr. Joe Hamill, who runs the biomechanics lab, had tried it out that night at a weekly tennis game.

"Joe came back and said, 'I've never hit so hard in all my life. There's something to this racket,'" Katch said.

Katch said his wife also swore by it, so he tried it against a player who was much better than he. "I've never hit back like that," Katch said. "My shot was like a rocket. I put the racket down and called Andy Brown right away."

The only condition of the testing, he said, was that Brown help cover costs. Brown gave the department an unrestricted gift of \$10,000. Katch said the university has no other financial stake in the racket.

Katch said the handle requires only one grip, the semi-Western grip popular among young European professionals rather than the traditional Eastern "handshake" grip that requires a quick shift in hand position when changing from forehand to backhand. He said the experimental handle lies flat in the palm and the racket head is at a slight angle to the palm.

One drawback, he said, is that players used to traditional grips need time to adjust. "You start off by hitting into the net," said Katch. "But after 10 minutes you get used to it."

Wilson, the U.S.-based sports equipment manufacturer, has made 2,500 experimental rackets of about \$10 each, with the understanding that he will give the company the first option of producing them for the mass market, he said.

Brown said he has received written assurance from the International Tennis Federation that his handle is acceptable within the rules of the sport.

Sao Paulo cancels student games

BRUSSELS (AP) — The 1989 world student games in Sao Paulo have been cancelled because of Brazil's severe financial problems and organisers said Monday they were looking for alternative sites.

The international university sports federation said it has contacted Zagreb, Yugoslavia, which staged the 1987 university games. Seoul, site of the 1988 Olympic games, and Morocco.

Roch Campana, the federation's secretary general, said in an interview the U.S. federation is asking several U.S. universities to consider hosting the 1989 games in which some 6,000 athletes are due to participate.

"He said he hoped an alternative site could be announced at the March 2-12 world student winter games in Sofia, Bulgaria."

The key problem is staging a large-scale sports event at short

notice, Campana said, as the crowded 1989 international athletics and swimming calendars leave organisers little leeway to change dates.

The 1989 student games were to be held Aug. 19-29 in Sao Paulo. But the city had to bow out after Brazilian authorities withdrew their financial backing and no private sponsors were willing to take over the financing, the organisation's statement said.

The costs of the Sao Paulo games have been estimated at \$15 million.

The world student games are held every other year. Nearly 6,000 students from 126 countries took part in the 1987 games in Zagreb.

The Brussels-based group said in a statement it has begun contacting "cities which have the necessary sports facilities and ex-

perience to take over the organisation."

SEOUL — South Korea will decline an opportunity to host the 1989 summer university games, but will suggest instead that communist North Korea stage the event, according to a news report Monday.

As a friendly gesture, Seoul plans to ask North Korea to hold the games concurrently with the scheduled international youth festival in Pyongyang in July, the Yonhap news agency reported, quoting a source at the Korea Amateur Sports Association.

A final decision regarding the hosting of the games would be made by the Belgium-based international federation of university sports, and the sports ministry plans to send its proposal for a North Korean Universiad to the federation later this week, the source was quoted as saying.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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GET THAT OVERTRICK

East-West vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♦ A K Q J 6 3
♦ 8 7 4
♦ Void
♦ 10 6 3 2

WEST
♦ 10 8 7 4 2
♦ 9 2
♦ A 6 5 3 2
♦ 4

EAST
♦ Q J 10
♦ Q J 9 8 7 4
♦ 5

SOUTH
♦ Void
♦ K J 6 5 3
♦ K
♦ A K Q J 9 8 7

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♥ 3 ♠ 4 ♠ Pass
4 ♥ Pass 5 ♠ Pass
6 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ace of ♠

At rubber bridge, the play largely revolves around safety plays and daring defense in an attempt to beat the contract. At duplicate, the key features are overtricks and undertricks, major suits and minors.

On this hand from a pair tournament, those Northerners who became too mesmerized by the extra points earned in a major suit were justly

penalized for electing to play six spades rather than six clubs. The spade break meant that they had an unavoidable loser in each major.

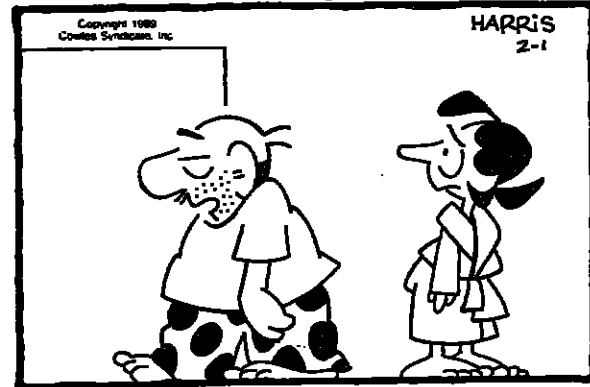
Six clubs was often reached on an auction such as the one above. Note that, despite his excellent offensive potential, South never made a jump bid. He devalued his hand because of his spade void, but that did not prevent the percentage slam from being reached.

After the lead of the ace of diamonds, most declarers made only 12 tricks. The diamond lead was ruffed in dummy and the outstanding trumps were drawn. Declarer crossed to the ten of clubs and cashed the high spades, taking four heart discards. When the suit did not break, he could set up a long spade with a ruff, but the club spots prevented him from getting back to the table to enjoy it.

At one table declarer had no trouble making all the tricks. After ruffing the diamond in dummy, he immediately ruffed a spade in hand. Now after drawing trumps with a high trump in hand, he had no problem getting back to the board with the ten of clubs to cash five spades and get rid of all his hearts.

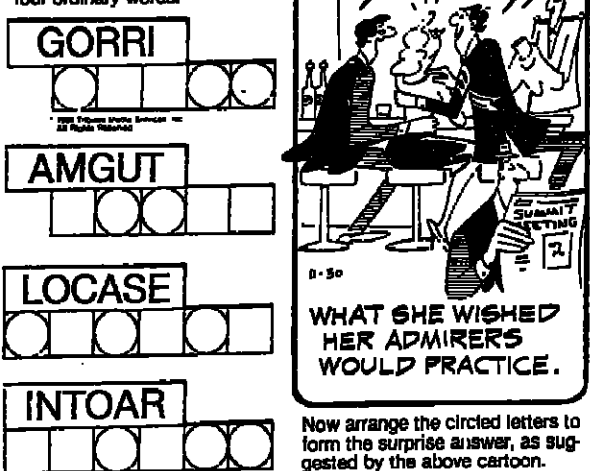
THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



JUMBLE.

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

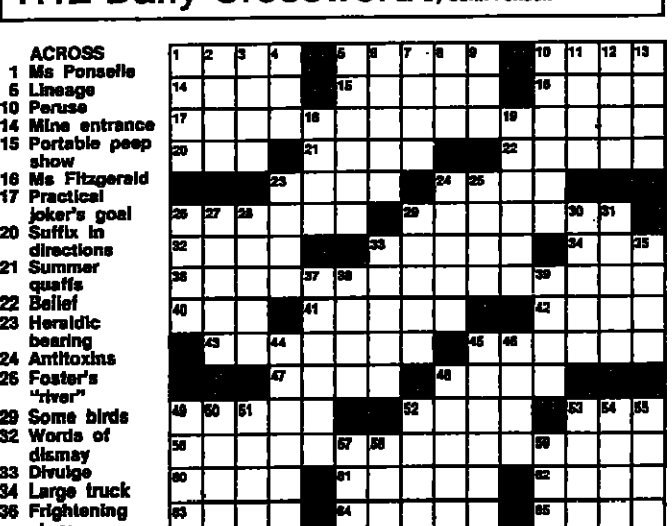


Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: "O O O O" (Answers tomorrow)

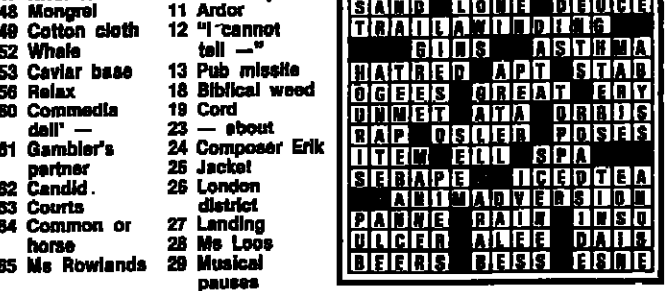
Yesterday's Jumbles: COCOA OUTDO BUTTER ZENITH
Answer: He doesn't like to be ordered around unless it's this—A ROUND OF BOOZE

THE Daily Crossword by John Feneck



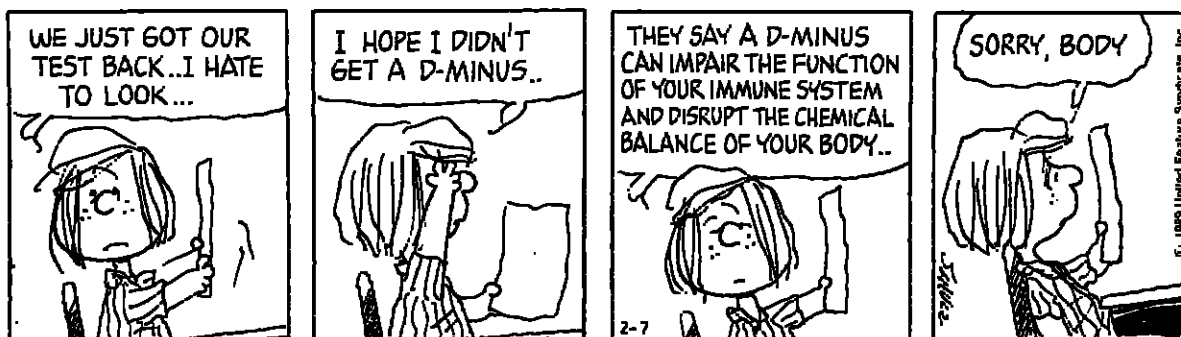
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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

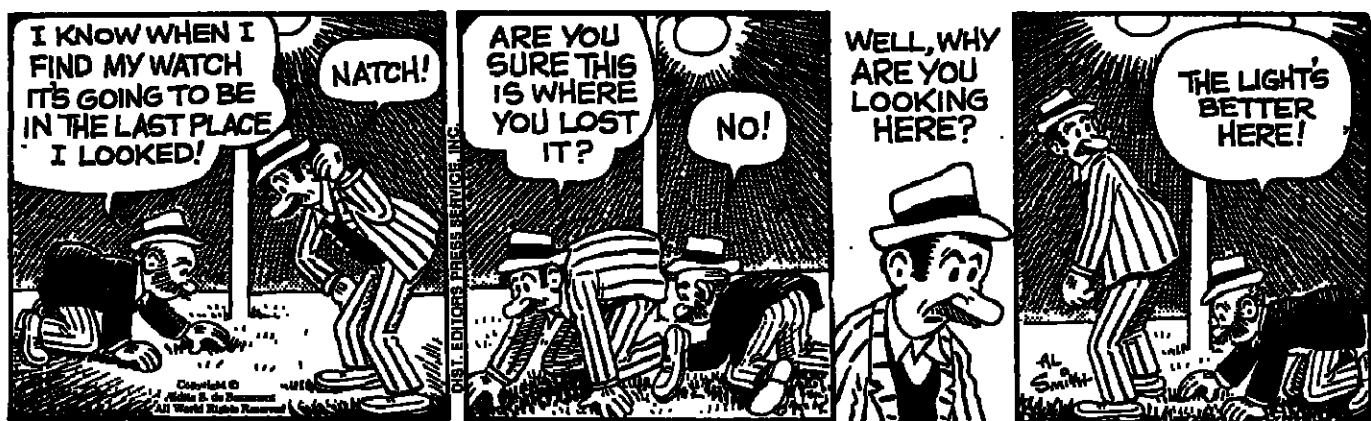


DOWN
1 Grade
2 Bouquet
3 Endorse
4 Devoured
5 Restraint
6 Wicked queen
7 Cupid
8 Poetic night
9 Sandra or Ruby
10 Warm up
11 Andor
12 "I cannot tell"
13 Pub mispell
14 Cord
15 Cord
16 Musical pauses
17 Soupy
18 Prevaricators
19 Shipshape
20 Affronted
21 Thanks — I
22 Color mixture
23 Light boots
24 Impossible
25 Roman road
26 Provisional
27 Hammer part
28 Sandwich type
29 "Leave"
30 Beaver
31 Follow relentlessly
32 Lasso
33 Author Wister
34 Sicilian resort
35 Letter
36 Haggard novel
37 Follow

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Warsaw Pact details troop, arms figures

MOSCOW (R) — The Warsaw Pact published detailed data of its troop and arms levels in Europe for the first time Monday and called on the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) to agree to steep cuts to do away with imbalances.

A statement by the pact's defence ministers, published by the Communist Party daily Pravda, repeated previous statements that there existed a general overall parity in troop levels on the continent.

In its detailed breakdown, the figures showed NATO with a slight numerical advantage over the Warsaw Pact in army and air force personnel — 2.11 million to 1.82 million.

But the ministers acknowledged that the pact enjoyed superiority over the Atlantic alliance in the level of tanks, tactical missile launchers, interceptor aircraft, infantry vehicles, armoured personnel carriers and artillery.

NATO, it said, held a more than two-to-one advantage in naval personnel — 685,000 to 338,000 — as well as in naval warplanes and large surface ships, including aircraft carriers.

The statement also said the Warsaw Pact held a "certain advantage" in submarines armed with missiles and torpedoes.

"The military balance in Europe, considering all its ingredients, can be described as a rough parity which does not give a possibility to either side to count on a decisive military advantage," the statement said.

"At the same time, it is imperative to radically lower the present high level of concentration of armed forces and armaments in Europe to ensure stability corresponding to the principle of reasonable defensive sufficiency."

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze had promised to release the figures earlier this month at the closing sessions of the 35-nation Conference on Security and Coop-

eration in Europe. The announcement followed Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's speech to the U.N. General Assembly announcing cuts of 500,000 men in two years. Gorbachev has also announced that he will cut the Soviet defence budget by one-seventh.

Troop cuts have also been announced by East Germany, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland.

NATO has tended to view the cuts as a public relations exercise prior to the opening of the conventional forces in Europe (CFE) talks starting in Vienna March 9.

Reform-hardline fight looms in Yugoslavia

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP) — An expected showdown between rival factions within Yugoslavia's Communist Party began Monday with the party leader criticising hardliners for opposing reforms designed to ease the country's social and economic problems.

Opening a plenary session of the party's policy making Central Committee, party leader Stipe Suvar attacked his chief political rival — Serbian Communist Party leader Slobodan Milosevic — although he did not mention Milosevic by name.

The meeting was called to discuss demands for Suvar's resignation and a possible shuffle of the ruling elite in the face of 250-per cent inflation, a drop in living standards and an outbreak of labour and ethnic unrest.

It was expected to produce a face-off between party liberals and the hardline coalition led by Milosevic, the ambitious party chief in Serbia, the largest of Yugoslavia's six constituent republics.

Milosevic supporters suffered an initial setback Monday when the meeting, by show of hands, voted down a Serbian proposal to discuss demands for Suvar's resignation before hearing the party

chief's speech. Milosevic, who has called for more centralised party control over the country's affairs, draws his support from Yugoslavia's poorer southern regions.

They fear that market-oriented reforms would end state subsidies for their loss-making industries, leading to lay-offs and further public unrest that would jeopardise the party's rule.

Suvar is supported by Yugoslavia's liberal northern republics of Slovenia and Croatia, which favour increased political pluralism, more democracy and radical market-oriented reforms as a solution to the country's protracted crisis.

Suvar, a pragmatist from Croatia, called for more "political pluralism, which is conditional on the competition of ideas," instead of "the dictatorship of the Communist Party."

He said the country would face a future of "neo-Stalinism" under

"dogmatic" and "bureaucratic" controls sought by some party members. His comments were an obvious reference to Milosevic, who is thought to be trying to consolidate power beyond Serbia.

Suvar and several non-Serbian Politburo members have recently come under fire from Milosevic's supporters in Serbia and its province of Vojvodina for allegedly anti-Serbian policies and for denouncing growing nationalism in the republic.

Suvar rejected the criticism, saying the party leadership "will no longer tolerate unfounded claims and provocations."

The Federal Party president indicated Milosevic's criticism underscored a clash between different political and economic concepts of Yugoslavia's future development.

The clash represents "a fundamental dispute between reformist and anti-reformist forces" within the party, Suvar said.

"Socialist political pluralism or neo-Stalinism — those are the two alternatives" offered by different factions within the Communist Party leadership as the way out of Yugoslavia's economic and political crisis, Suvar said.

Rightists' strong showing in Berlin poll shocks Germans

FRANKFURT, West Germany (AP) — A former Nazi SS officer has led a tiny right-wing extremist party to a strong showing in West Berlin state elections, shocking West Germans and raising questions about the country's future political course.

Sunday's vote also will send two members of the Republican Party to the federal parliament next year, the first time that the extreme right will be represented in Bonn since 1953.

"Kick out the Nazis, foreigners stay," several thousand people chanted as they marched through West Berlin late Sunday to protest against the Republican Party's success.

The Republican Party captured 11 seats during Sunday's voting for the state legislature, leaving it

an opposition force in the 144-seat house but marking the organisation's first win in state politics.

Former Nazi SS officer Franz Schoenhuber, who heads the Republican Party, had led a campaign to oust Turks and other foreign workers from West Berlin. Foreigners make up about 10 per cent of the city's population of two million.

Schoenhuber, 66, repeatedly told rallies during the election campaign that the number one political party, the Christian Democrats (CDU) under Chancellor Helmut Kohl, was "drifting further and further to the left."

The burly, tough-talking Schoenhuber, who preached strong patriotism, predicted that

prospects for his party were "extraordinarily favourable" following the West Berlin balloting.

The Republican Party was formed in 1983, and its previous best showing was a three per cent share of the votes in 1986 state elections in traditionally conservative Bavaria. The 1986 balloting fell short of the five-per cent minimum needed to get into the state legislature.

Sunday's surprise success in West Berlin also will send two Republican Party members to the federal parliament after national elections next year. West Berlin's 22-member delegation in the parliament can vote in committee but has very limited voting rights in full sessions of the national legislature.

Bush opts for steady pace rather than a flashy start

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bush, ignoring the dramatic starts of some of his predecessors, has opted for a methodical approach to his duties rather than leading a charge for change.

After a relatively low-key first week in the White House, where he made himself accessible to reporters but offered no major proposals, his agenda for this week calls for more of the same.

"I don't think that's bad, it's good," said one White House official. "There weren't horrendous policy mistakes to correct."

"We didn't have to pull the plug, drain the system and repair it," he said of the transition from President Reagan to Bush, who served eight years as vice president in the previous administration.

Bush, nursing a cold that forced him to scrap plans for his first visit to the Camp David retreat as president Sunday, slated a series of staff meetings for Monday — interrupted by the day's only public appearance, the swearing-in ceremony for Elizabeth Dole as his labour secretary.

Since Franklin D. Roosevelt was elected president in 1932, White House occupants have been sensitive to expectations of swift action, as Roosevelt called for in his first 100 days when he introduced sweeping legislation to fight the Great Depression.

Reagan began his tenure pressing for an overhaul of the nation's tax structure, and Jimmy Carter

took office calling for a host of changes — including a bid for a massive revision of the complex welfare system.

The first major proposal for Bush is expected to deal with the federal budget plan submitted by Reagan just before leaving office, and changes there will not be on a wholesale basis.

The Bush budget "won't be that different from the Reagan blueprint" that called for spending \$1.15 trillion in fiscal year 1990, said one White House official.

"Education, child care, environmental priorities will be different," he said of the Bush spending plan, to be discussed when he addresses a joint session of Congress Feb. 9.

Gambling craze plagues Taiwan

By Shirley Lai
The Associated Press

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — Gambling, Taiwan (AP) — Gambling lust has fostered clandestine wagering networks throughout this prosperous island, prompting officials to warn that the obsession is disrupting the economy.

Observers say the craze is the result of limited investment opportunities amid a flood of idle cash created by Taiwan's economic success.

"It's worse than a huge casino," said a dismayed Jaw Shao-Kang, outspoken legislator of the ruling Nationalist Party. "We don't even have fair gambling rules and decent bookies."

Gambling is illegal in Taiwan, but an estimated two million people, or roughly one-tenth the population, play an underground game based on results of nearby Hong Kong's semi-weekly lottery.

They are lured by the chance to win 10 to 500 times their bets, which typically are 500 Taiwan dollars (about \$18) or more. Only a tiny fraction of players, about 6,000 people, were arrested or fined last year.

The game became a favourite diversion for farmers, factory workers and market vendors after the government suspended its own lottery in 1987 to break up underground gambling based on the drawing.

Now, Taiwan's telephone lines are jammed each Tuesday and Thursday by people

calling bookies for the Hong Kong results.

"Circuits are extremely overloaded on those days" and special steps have been taken to prevent a breakdown, said a ranking directorate general of communications official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Gamblers pray to folk gods for the correct numbers and often celebrate at Buddhist temples if they win.

The lottery gamblers have gone too far, said Chang Mei-Hsien, principal of Taipei's Fu Shing primary school, which is near such a temple. "Their noisy celebrations often disrupt our students in class."

To take advantage of the gambling trend, Taiwan's two largest cities, Taipei and Kaohsiung, have proposed running their own lotteries later this year to raise funds for social welfare programmes.

Many Taiwanese also have turned to gambling on New York and Chicago commodity market prices.

An estimated 500 local companies, including jewelry shops and investment firms, each day accept bets totalling about five billion Taiwan dollars (\$179 million) based on the movement of futures prices, said Martin Tsai, a financial consultant with Alliance International law office, which advises businesses and government agencies.

Newspapers estimate each company has about 160 clients, meaning about 80,000 people

gamble on commodity prices.

There is no legal futures trading in Taiwan because authorities have not enacted a law to regulate it, the economic ministry said.

Even the local stock exchange is widely viewed as little more than a legal form of gambling. Many inexperienced players, such as housewives, office clerks, retired servicemen and college students, see it solely as a way to make quick money through speculation.

The exchange reported earlier this month that about 1.66 million people have opened accounts with stock brokers. Trading volume totalled 7.9 trillion Taiwan dollars (about \$280 billion) last year, the third-largest in the world after New York and Tokyo.

On average, each of the total 34 billion shares changed hands nearly three times last year, even though roughly two-thirds of the shares were closely held and not for sale.

Frederick Chien, chairman of the state-run Council for Economic Planning and Development, believes the gambling craze has changed traditional values that helped this island improve its economy dramatically. Per capita annual income in 1988 was 157,400 Taiwan dollars (\$5,512), a 56 per cent increase from 1983.

"So many people are obsessed with speculation. They want to become rich overnight, and they no longer work so hard for the money," he said.

'Castro asked Khrushchev to fire'

MOSCOW (AP) — Cuban leader Fidel Castro was convinced a U.S. invasion of his island was imminent in the 1962 missile crisis and urged Soviet leader Nikita S. Khrushchev to launch a nuclear attack on the United States, a Soviet source reportedly told U.S. colleagues.

Castro reportedly sent a message to Khrushchev, asking for the nuclear strike, after he spent the night of Oct. 26, 1962, in the bomb shelter of the Soviet Embassy in Havana, said Pierre Salinger, who was U.S. President John F. Kennedy's press secretary at the time.

Salinger, now a reporter for the U.S. ABC television network, said the report of Castro's message to Khrushchev was relayed by a Soviet official in private conversations over the weekend with U.S. officials attending a conference on the 1962 U.S.-Soviet confrontation.

Salinger declined to identify the Soviet official and the report

was later denied by at least two other Soviet officials who attended the conference.

The Cuban missile crisis began when the United States detected the presence of Soviet nuclear weapons on the island and Kennedy demanded that they be removed. The confrontation ended when Khrushchev agreed to withdraw the missiles in exchange for Kennedy's pledge not to invade Cuba.

Castro reportedly told Khrushchev that he feared the United States would invade Cuba and urged the Soviets to launch a pre-emptive strike, Salinger said.

In another revelation for U.S. officials attending the conference, a Soviet general disclosed that 20 missiles and warheads — which he said constituted one-third of the Soviet Union's nuclear arsenal at the time — were in Cuba during the confrontation.

But the general and another Soviet official said the warheads had not been mounted on missile

launchers and were not ready for firing.

A U.S. source said, however, that he and other former U.S. officials learned that the warheads could have been mounted and fired within hours. The source spoke on condition of anonymity.

That report was denied by Aleksandr I. Alekseyev, Soviet ambassador to Cuba in 1962.

Salinger, in a telephone interview with the AP, said the Moscow conference, which brought together participants from all three sides of the missile crisis for the first time, showed the world was "closer to nuclear war than we believed at that time."

Other participants said the discussions also revealed the Soviet nuclear arsenal was smaller than U.S. intelligence believed at the time and that there were four times more Soviet troops in Cuba than the Kennedy administration thought.

Pope: No women priests

VATICAN CITY (R) — Pope John Paul upheld the dignity of women Monday, saying they should not be viewed as sex objects, but he said some feminist beliefs hampered women's freedom and progress.

The pontiff, in a 200-page "apostolic exhortation" based on a 1987 synod in the Vatican on the role of lay Roman Catholics, also reaffirmed the church's permanent ban on women priests.

"In her participation in the life and mission of the church a woman cannot receive the sacrament of orders, and therefore cannot fulfil the proper function of the ministerial priesthood," the Pope said.

"This is a practice that the church has always found in the expressed will of Christ, totally free and sovereign, who called only men to be his apostles," he added.

But he asserted that the ban was not an offence to women's dignity and did not reduce their potential holiness.

The pontiff said women were the prime victims of an "unjust and deleterious mentality which considers the human being as a thing, as an object to buy and sell, as an instrument for selfish interests or for pleasure only."



Pope John Paul

Space cities on the horizon

ROCKY HILL, New Jersey (AP) — In an office set amid farmland, researchers are drawing blueprints for space communities built from moon rock and powered by huge solar satellites.

It may sound like science fiction, but Gregg Maryniak says such dreams could become reality at the start of the next century.

"We're trying to change from thinking of space as a void to thinking of it as a font of energy and material resources that makes it a good place for people," says Maryniak, executive vice president of the Space Studies Institute.

Maryniak and Gerard K. O'Neill, a nuclear physicist and professor emeritus at Princeton University who founded the institute in 1977, are among those driven by the belief that humans are rapidly consuming the Earth's natural resources and making it uninhabitable with pollution and garbage.

They believe new energy

sources could be developed in space.

"I see this kind of activity as one of the few bright rays of hope in a situation that otherwise appears to be hopeless," Maryniak said in an interview at the institute, which is housed at a former rocket engine plant.

Since it's too expensive to carry materials into space, scientists must develop construction materials that are already available there, he said. The closest source is the moon.

The private, non-profit institute already has developed three prototypes of a "mass driver" — a machine used to launch small ball-size fragments of mined moon rock to a central collection place in space.

Maryniak said moon rock, composed mainly of oxygen, silicon and metals, can be broken into building materials and fuel using solar energy.

The latest mass driver is a tube 1/2 metre wide and 165 metres

long that propels material into space at a rate of 2.5 kilometres per second.

The moon rock could be used to build solar power satellites that would collect sunlight, convert it to electricity and beam it to earth.

Such satellites, up to 8 kilometres long, could produce as much electricity as three or four nuclear reactors and provide all the energy needs of a city of several million people, Maryniak says.

Totally self-sufficient space cities could be built with agricultural areas, controlled atmosphere, water supplies and gravitational field. Such cities would house tens of thousands of people and have trees, rivers and birds.

Ivan Bekey, special assistant at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Office of Exploration in Washington D.C., said the institute's projects are possible but probably won't be realised for 20 to 40 years.

Papandreou's love-life centre stage again

ATHENS (R) — The tangled love-life of Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou was back in the spotlight Sunday and a bank scandal battering his socialist government since October re-emerged with a vengeance.

Papandreou, 69, openly challenged accounts by his American wife, Margaret, that he has been dodging a face-to-face meeting to hammer out details for a divorce by mutual consent.

The couple's marital problems have been played out like a television soap opera since Papandreou moved in with Dimitra Liani, a 34-year-old airline stewardess, after undergoing heart surgery in September.

With the divorce row heating up and public comments by both sides, Papandreou's personal life looks certain to be dragged into the campaign for national elections expected June 18.

In a rare public comment on his private life, Papandreou said he had "asked a long time ago for a meeting with Mrs. Margaret Papandreou to push ahead with the divorce."

"But Mrs. Margaret Papandreou has not set a date for this meeting," said the statement, issued by government spokesman Sotiris Kostopoulos.

Mrs. Papandreou, 63, continues to live in the family home in the northern suburb of Kastris and Papandreou continues to slip past the house to use his office at the foot of the garden.

It was in the garden office, for instance, that Papandreou held formal talks with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat Jan. 10.

Liani has been at Papandreou's side since his operation in London. The elegant blonde even stole the limelight during a

European Economic Community (EEC) summit on the island of Rhodes in December.

Mrs. Papandreou, mother of Papandreou's four children, has said repeatedly she wants to see her husband before agreeing to a divorce. But she insists Papandreou has been avoiding her.

"I set no conditions for a divorce," she told reporters last week. "The only thing that remains is a meeting with Andreas. For me the divorce matter is closed and the sooner it ends the better."

Papandreou's marital problems and financial scandals which have dogged his government since last year were driven briefly from the news this month by a spate of shooting attacks on state prosecutors by left-wing guerrillas.

But the scandals re-emerged this weekend. One of Papandreou's closest political allies and



Andreas Papandreou

a senior minister in his cabinet, Agamemnon Koutsoyorgas, issued a tough statement denouncing news reports associating him with a bank scandal.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Solidarity priest found dead

WARSAW (R) — A radical pro-Solidarity priest in the north-eastern Polish city of Bialystok was found dead Monday, apparently asphyxiated by a fire in his apartment, church officials said. They said neighbours alarmed by the smoke smashed their way into the apartment of Reverend Stanislaw Suchowolec, 30, in his parish house and found him and his pet dog dead on the floor beside his bed. Suchowolec was the second dissident priest to die in Poland in the past 10 days. Suchowolec acted as a chaplain for the banned Solidarity movement in the Bialystok region.

Czech artists urge release of Havel

VIENNA (R) — Czechoslovakia's leaders faced one of their biggest challenges in 10 years after some 700 prominent cultural figures signed a petition urging the release of dissident author Vaclav Havel, emigre sources said Monday. The "initiative of cultural workers," comprising 63 pages with 692 signatures, was sent last Thursday to Czechoslovak Prime Minister Ladislav Adamec. Emigre sources in Vienna, who made the text of the petition available to Reuters, said more signatures were pouring in from all over Czechoslovakia.

Whites stop Indian from moving in

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Ultra right-wing residents of a Johannesburg suburb hung a noose outside the home of an Indian man at the weekend and prevented him moving in, South African newspapers reported Monday. The residents, including a far

right-wing conservative party city councillor, vowed to picket the house in a whites-only suburb "to ensure that the intruder does not return" the demonstrators were quoted as saying. The residents spent several hours outside the house, some quoting extracts from South Africa's group areas act, which forces strict residential segregation of races.

Tibetans accuse Chinese of Lama death

NEW DELHI (AP) — Police Monday arrested 24 Tibetan demonstrators who accused the Chinese of killing the Panchen Lama, the second-highest leader of Tibetan Buddhism, Press Trust of India (PTI) said. The news agency said 24 demonstrators were arrested for disturbing the peace. A spokesman for the Tibetans charged that the Chinese "killed" the Panchen Lama "because he could not be a puppet." PTI said.

Vanuatu gets new president

PORT VILA, Vanuatu (AP) — Former Health Minister Fred Timakata was elected president of this Pacific island chain Monday, replacing jailed head of state George Sokomani, who is to stand trial for trying to oust the government. State-run Radio Vanuatu said Timakata was elected by the country's electoral college, receiving 41 of 42 votes cast. He was elected as a member of the government cabinet, along with Prime Minister Walter Lini, by popular vote in November 1987. But in Vanuatu, the electoral college, composed of parliament members and local government officials, chooses the president.

COLUMN

Jimmie's physical trying for doctors

MIAMI (AP) — Jimmie, the star gorilla at Miami's Metrozoo, had to undergo his annual physical examination — and it proved to be more trying for the veterinarians than for the patient. The 22-year-old ape has been at Metrozoo for five years and apparently knew something was up when veterinarian Scott Citino appeared at his enclosure. Jimmie bobbed and weaved like a boxer as Citino tried to shoot him with an anesthetic dart. It took three hours and several blasts of the dart gun before 181-kilogram Jimmie was hit with a dart that put him to sleep. Only then did he get his physical, which was a good deal more physical for the zookeepers than for Jimmie. It took eight keepers to lift Jimmie off the bed of a pickup truck into Metrozoo's ultramodern hospital. There he was weighed, X-rayed, inoculated for tetanus, injected with antibiotics, attached to an electrocardiograph, tested for tuberculosis, probed with an ultrasound machine and checked for eye, ear and throat diseases. Cardiologist Donald Rosenberg, who had never examined an ape before and was brought in because keepers feared Jimmie had a heart problem, was ecstatic afterward. "Jimmie's a lot better than a lot of my patients," he said. "He doesn't sound off, and he doesn't have thoughts of malpractice in his head."

'Working Girls' get awards

BEVERLY HILLS, California (AP) — Melanie Griffith and Sigourney Weaver won Golden Globe Awards Saturday night for their portrayals of Wall Street antagonists in the corporate Cinderella story, "Working Girl." Griffith won for best actress in a musical or comedy film, and Weaver won for best supporting actress in a motion picture at the 46th annual Golden Globes. In all, "Working Girl" was nominated for six awards. "This is one for the bad girls, I guess," Weaver said in accepting the award, a reference to her role as a shrewish Wall Street executive. Griffith's former husband and current fiancé, Don Johnson, laughed as Griffith became flustered during her acceptance speech, and let slip an expletive during the nationally televised broadcast. Veteran actor Martin Landau took the trophy for best performance by an actor in a supporting role for his appearance in, "Tucker: The Man and His Dream," Francis Ford Coppola's study of American car maker Preston Tucker.

Traffic chaos easing in Tehran

NICOSIA (R) — Iran, which this week celebrates the tenth anniversary of its revolution, is seeking to revolutionise Iranian driving habits to mark the occasion. "It's unbelievable but it's true: traffic in Tehran is getting organised," the country's news agency IRNA reported Sunday. It said the traffic department announced a plan to supervise drivers and pedestrians at 10 of the busiest intersections in the capital, where 50 pedestrians are injured daily. "For the first time I saw people at Adazi Square waiting for the red traffic light before crossing the street," one driver told the agency, monitored in Cyprus. IRNA said the plan was first tested two months ago in Tehran's Enghelab (Revolution) Square and was an instant success.

British theatre honours stars

LONDON (AP) — "Shirley Valentine," a Broadway-bound comedy, and "Candide," a classic Broadway musical, topped London's Laurence Olivier Awards Sunday in a nationally televised ceremony. Highlights of the ceremony were a lifetime achievement award for Sir Alec Guinness and a healthy spirit of glossiness with representatives from two winning companies from the Soviet Union — the Kirov Ballet and the Maly Theatre of Leningrad — delivering acceptance speeches in Russian. Guinness, who plays a Soviet diplomat in the American play "A Walk in the Woods," told the black-tie audience at the Dominion Theatre "the theatre was my first love and it will certainly be my last." He received his special award from the evening's guest of honour, Princess Diana. "Shirley Valentine," "Willy Russell's one-woman play about an emotionally troubled Liverpool housewife who named comedy of the year's star, Pauline Collins, best actress as the maid Sarah in the long-running series "Upstairs, Downstairs," was chosen actress of the year in a new play of comedy.